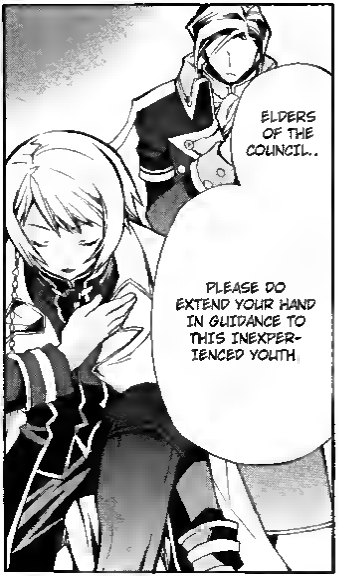
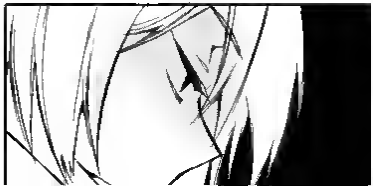
THE PREPARATIONS IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL ARE COMPLETE.
ガチャ
EVERYONE... PLEASE TAKE YOUR SEAT.
ガチャ
WHY, IT'S !.
PRINCE ORCELITO...
ORCELITO APPEARS BEFORE THE ELDERS !!

WE MERE SUBJECTS,
ARE UNWORTHY OF SUCH DEFERENCE

YOUR HIGHNESS!
PLEASE STAND UP...

WHAT IS THIS...
WHA...
...YOUR... HIGHNESS


ELDERS OF THE COUNCIL..
PLEASE DO EXTEND YOUR HAND IN GUIDANCE TO THIS INEXPERIENCED YOUTH



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OP 18
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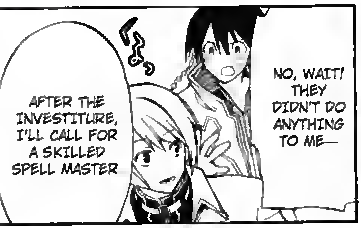
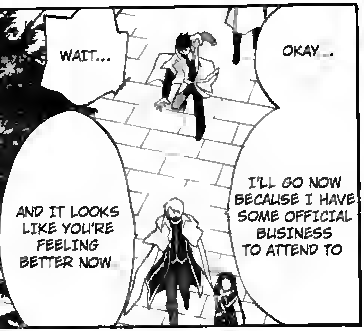
単行本第③巻、11月25日発売予定――!
NOW---
—WELL THEN,
SHALL WE BEGIN?
OPEN THE DOORS OF THE COUNCIL...!

ORCELITO..
IF THEY'RE WOUNDED, THEY USE HERBAL MEDICINES.
AND THEY EAT FRUITS FROM TREES, AND DO OTHER THINGS...
THE HOKULEA
...ARE NOT MONSTERS.
WHAT HAVE YOU DECIDED IN THE COUNCIL...?
EVEN IF THEY TRULY ARE DESCENDED FROM THE FOLLOWERS OF THE EVIL DEITY..
PERHAPS, LIVING IN THE HUMAN WORLD FOR SO LONG HAS MADE THEM NO DIFFERENT FROM PEOPLE—

I'M SORRY TO SAY, BELCA.
THEY ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM PEOPLE.
...OF COURSE I KNOW THAT!!!
THE AMONTEL ARE MONSTERS


NO, WAIT! THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO ME—
AFTER THE INVESTITURE, I'LL CALL FOR A SKILLED SPELL MASTER

I HEARD THAT THERE WERE AMONTEL AT THE EARL OF ARLON'S ESTATE.
PERHAPS.. THEY PUT YOU UNDER A SPELL.


WAIT...
OKAY..
I'LL GO NOW BECAUSE I HAVE SOME OFFICIAL BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO
AND IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE FEELING BETTER NOW

I SAID WAIT!!!
PLEASE TELL ME THE TRUTH..
WE'LL KEEP THIS FROM LAGEN...
YOU'RE PLANNING SOMETHING, RIGHT!?
DIDN'T YOU TELL ME THAT
YOU'D LIKE TO THINK ABOUT WHY THE RULES TURNED OUT THIS WAY...?
BUT NOW, YOU'RE—
.....

UNTIL WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO FOLLOW ME, BELGA?
THAT MATTER HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED IN THE COUNCIL
AND NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY IT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING SINCE YOU'RE NOT ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COUNCIL.
LET GO OF ME!
PUTTING THEM UNDER SUPERVISION IS MUCH BETTER THAN KILLING EVERYONE.
I DID THINK ABOUT IT...
ORCELITO!
PERHAPS, IN THE NEXT GENERATIONS ... THEIR DESCENDANTS MAY EVENTUALLY FIND FREEDOM.
IN EACH OF THEIR RESPECTIVE AREAS—— EVERYONE IS ALREADY MAKING THEIR MOVE.
BESIDES...

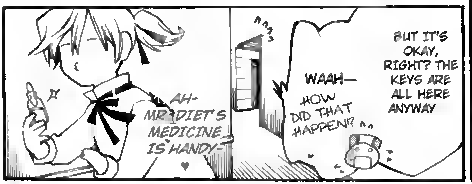
OPEN THE DOORWAY—
PRINCE ORCELITO HAS ARRIVED
OPEN THE DOOR-WAY—
IT'S ALRIGHT.
AS LONG AS THEY DON'T RESIST, NO HARM WILL COME TO THEM.. WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF KILLING THEM.
HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU? YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT ANYTHING

—SO HE DOESN'T EVEN PLAN ON
TALKING TO ME ABOUT IT..
IN THE END"
NOTHING HAS CHANGED!
"AS LONG AS THEY DON'T RESIST"!?
THAT'S... IMPOSSIBLE!
COULD YOU PLEASE
LEND ME YOUR EAR FOR A MOMENT?
YOUR HIGHNESS
WHAT IS IT, LINNA?

PRINCE ORCELITO,
.....WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID THAT BELCA DOESN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO DO ANYTHING BY HIMSELF.
IS IT ALRIGHT TO LEAVE PRINCE BELCA LIKE THIS, AND LET HIM DO AS HE PLEASES?
THAT HE WAS JUST YOUR SPARE IN CASE YOUR PLANS DON'T GO WELL WITH BROTHER AND ME.
THE THIRD PRINCE WAS RAISED IN AN ENVIRONMENT THAT YOU CHOSE, SO THAT AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE, HE WOULD GROW UP DEMORAL-IZED, IGNORANT, AND WITHOUT SELF-ESTEEM.
YES, THAT IS CORRECT
.....HOWEVER,

WHAT'S THIS?
THERE'S AN OPENING...
PEOPLE...
DO NOT ALWAYS STAY THE SAME.
OH MY—
LOOKS LIKE THEY FOUND THE HIDDEN LIBRARY
I WONDER WHO DID THIS?
—HM,
MAYBE THE OLD-TIMERS?
OR...

WAS I SLEEPING JUST HOW!?
AH!?
ALRIGHTY...
PRINCE ORCELITO...
...PERHAPS?


AH- MR. DIET'S MEDICINE IS HANDY~
WAAH— HOW DID THAT HAPPEN!?
BUT IT'S OKAY, RIGHT? THE KEYS ARE ALL HERE ANYWAY

HEY THERE!
DID YOU WATCH THE DANCE?
SURE DID♥♥ THANKS VERY, VERY MUCH!!

MISTER GUARDS, SEE YOU ALL AGAIN TOMOR
HEY!!!
I COULDN'T HELP IT! I WENT TO THE TOILET!!
...HUH?
NEVERMIND! HURRY UP 'COZ WE GOT WORK TO DO!!
MARIK-TAN!? WHY DID YOU HIT ME ALL OF A SUDDEN!?
WHAT WERE YOU DOING!? YOU WEREN'T AT THE REHEARSAL AREA EARLIER WHEN I CALLED YOU!!
IT'S STATION NUMBER TWO! THE STABLE GRAMPS AND I WERE ASKED TO PUT THE HARNESS ON THE HORSES!!!
SO... SORRY...
WEAR YOUR CLOTHES PROPERLY OR YOU'LL REGRET IT!!!

YOU'RE LATE ECO.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
SIR ORHALDI AND PRINCE BELCA!?
SEE...? I TOLD YOU IT'S NO ORDINARY JOB!

I'LL BE ASKING YOU TO DRIVE IF WE GO NOW, WE CAN RETURN BEFORE THE BELL RINGS FOR THE CLOSING OF THE GATES.
HIS HIGHNESS, PRINCE BELCA, WOULD LIKE TO EAT SOME FOOD FROM THE TOWN.
I SHALL GO AND BUY IT FOR HIM
WHISPER
...ORHALDI
WHAT IS THIS...?
WE MUST GO AND INFORM HER ROYAL HIGHNESS.
AND... WE HAVE ANOTHER ERRAND TO RUN.
ER... I'D LIKE ROASTED SKEWERS IF YOU CAN FIND SOME, THE ONES SEASONED ONLY WITH SALT.
IF THERE'S NONE... FLATTENED SEAFOOD OR BAKED BISCUITS WOULD BE FINE.
HE'S QUITE FAMILIAR WITH IT.
STREET FOOD?
HMM HE IS

I SEE BELCA'S
NOT COMING.
IT WAS HIS HIGHNESS' DECISION
HE HAS DECIDED TO STAY AND CONTINUE TO TRY AND CONVINCE PRINCE ORCELITO
CONVINCE PRINCE ORCELITO?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON
TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT LATER, OKAY?
SIGNAL FROM THE STATION TO THE LOWER LEVEL CONTROL TOWER.
CLEAR THE WAY TO THE OUTER GATES!
THE EARL'S COACH IS DEPARTING FROM STATION NUMBER TWO.

YOU TWO...
SORRY, I'M COUNTING ON YOU..
OKAY...!
I WONDER IF IT'S ALRIGHT TO PASS IT ON TO THE OUTER GATES?
IT SAYS EMERGENCY THOUGH..
HEY,
WHAT THE..? THERE'S A STRANGE SIGNAL COMING FROM THE UPPER LEVEL CONTROL TOWER

HUH?
THAT CONTROL TOWER IS GIVING WEIRD INSTRUCTIONS IS THAT ALRIGHT?
IT SAYS, "LOWER THE OUTER GATE LATTICE
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? THE EARL'S COACH WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE IF THEY DO THAT.
UM, YOUR HIGHNESS, WOULD YOU LIKE TO WAIT IN THE HALL?
UH, NO, IT'S OKAY
HEY
WHAT...?
I CAN'T HEAR HIM
DAMMIT...
...I'M NOT GOING TO MAKE IT-
HUH?
BELCA...?

FAS-TER!!!
GO FAS-TER !!!
.....!!!!
ゴゴ
...THE OUTER GATES!!!
.....

SINCE THAT INCIDENT IN SANA, I SEE THAT WE'LL BE CONTINUING TO WORK AS CROWS...
THEY PICKED UP SPEED AT THIS RATE THEY'LL BE ABLE TO ESCAPE
YES SIR
I'LL BACK YOU UP
DON'T KILL THEM
I APOLOGIZE... I TOOK MY EYES OFF THEM FOR A MOMENT
ゴガッ
ガッ
!?
SIR ECO! THE REAR WHEEL HAS BEEN SHOT..
I KNOW!! BUT WE CAN STILL ESCAPE SOMEHOW WE HAVE TO HURRY!!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S NOT JUST ONE ARROW!

OR ELSE ..
SIR ECO, WHAT'S WRONG ...?
SUCH FINE HORSES
NOT EVEN SCARED OF AN "IRREGULAR".

NO WAY!
HE CUT THE HARNESS!!?
COACHMAN. .
STOP THE CARRIAGE
トーッ
EVEN IF YOU ASK ME FOR THETHIRD TIME,
I'LL STILL REFUSE!!!
!!!
WE'RE SLOWING DOWN...!
NO, THE COACH IS GOING TO TURN OVER..!

...
WHA
....
ARLON'S POISON SMOKE...!!!
WAAH ☆
OHHH
ECO-TAN'S NOT REALLY GOOD AT PHYSICAL WORK!
I'M SORRY!!
ORHALDI!! CAN YOU HEAR ME!? JUMP OVER HERE!
I'M NOW ABOUT TO UNFASTEN THE LAST CLASP...
THE CARRIAGE IS NO GOOD ANYMORE. WE'LL HAVE TO FORCE OURSELVES TO RIDE ON HORSEBACK-

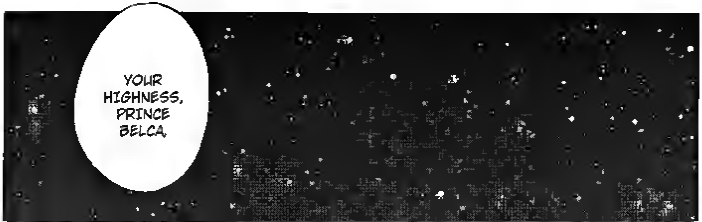
THE SMOKE HAS NO EFFECT ON HIM!?
I'M TELL-ING YOU TO...
STOP!

THANKS ORHALDI
I UN-FASTENED THE CLASPS.
GET OVER HERE QUICKLY...
WHAT'S THAT? ISN'T THAT THE POISON SMOKE FROM THE EARL'S MANSION...?
WHAT ARE THEY DOING...!?
ORHAL
!!
OH NO! HE'S ALREADY TOO FAR BEHIND!!
IF I GO BACK FOR HIM, WE WON'T MAKE IT ..
ORHAL DI!!!

WHAT ...
ORHALDI YOU'RE...
THE MES-SAGE !!!
SIR ECO ...
HE IS THE REAL PRINCE ORCELITO ...
AND HE IS PROBABLY NOT BEING CON-TROLLED BY ANYONE!!!
IF SHE WISHES IT, PLEASE ACCOMPANY HER TO WHER-EVER SHE WANTS TO GO...!
AND AN-OTHER IS
ABOUT THE HOKULEA —

...
ORHALDI...
I'M SORRY ...

THAT "COACH-MAN"....
...IT CAN'T BE..!
...!

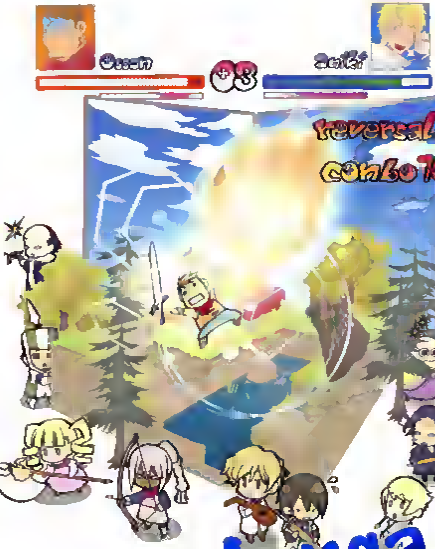

YOUR HIGHNESS, PRINCE BELCA.

HONESTLY...
I NEVER THOUGHT YOU COULD DO SUCH A THING.
WHILE TRYING TO ESCAPE, THE COACHMAN FELL INTO THE CASSIA RIVER AND HAS NOT YET BEEN FOUND.
THE WATERS ARE FREEZING DURING WINTER. YOU MUST BE WORRIED.
HEY, BELCA.
SOMEONE TOLD YOU TO DO THIS, THAT'S WHY YOU HAD NO CHOICE, RIGHT?
WAS IT THE COACHMAN? THE POISON USER? THE EARL OF ARLON—

—NO...
I...WANTED TO INFORM THE HOKULEA
...SO I ORDERED BOTH OF THEM TO GO.
...
YOUR HIGHNESS SIR LINNA IS NOT A POISON USER, IS HE?
POISON USERS HAVE BEEN HANDLING DRUGS SINCE THEIR YOUTH, AND SO THEIR STAMINA AND PHYSIQUE IS WEAKER THAN NORMAL PEOPLE.
HOWEVER.. HE WOULD NOT EVEN NEED TO CATCH HIS BREATH IF HE RAN
HE COULD FACE FIVE OF MY MEN WITH JUST A CANE IN HAND
—U...
LINNA... IS HE ALRIGHT!?
HE IS FINE
BUT I SENT SOMEONE TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM JUST TO BE SURE HE KEEPS QUIET

NO!!!
IT WAS I WHO ORDERED THEM!!!
HE SAID THAT..
HE DID THIS ON HIS OWN
AND THAT YOUR HIGHNESS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
.....
..PRINCE ORCELITO, IT'S TIME FOR YOUR DINNER MEETING WITH LORD TAINE.
WE NEED TO HEAD FOR REGIA MARE PALACE SOON.
AH!
THE INVESTITURE WILL BE ON THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.. PLEASE UNDERSTAND..
—YES.
I KNOW

WELL THEN. NEXT TIME, I WILL BE ASKING YOU LITTLE BY LITTLE ABOUT VARIOUS OTHER THINGS
IT IS ALRIGHT, YOU DO NOT NEED TO WORRY
WE WILL ALSO FIND THE COACHMAN SOON.
IN THE MEANTIME... PLEASE ATTEND THE INVESTITURE CEREMONY THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW.
.....
IF YOU DO, THEN I SHALL GUARANTEE SIR LINNA'S SAFETY.
...I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEAN.
BELCA, CONCERNED ABOUT LINNA'S SAFETY, IS STRUCK BY KUKO'S WORDS... AMIDST THE TURMOIL, THE INVESTITURE CEREMONY APPROACHES!



I Eat Manga

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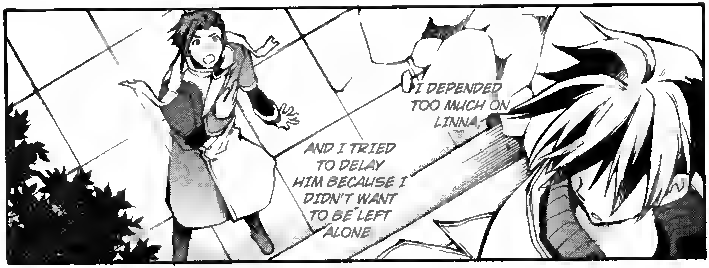
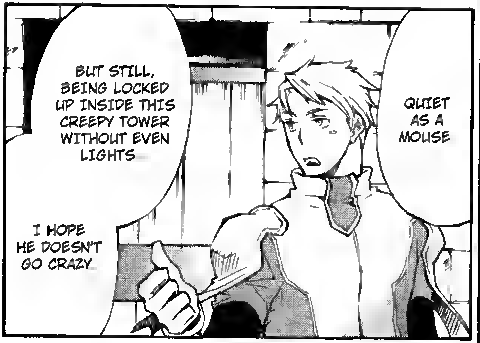
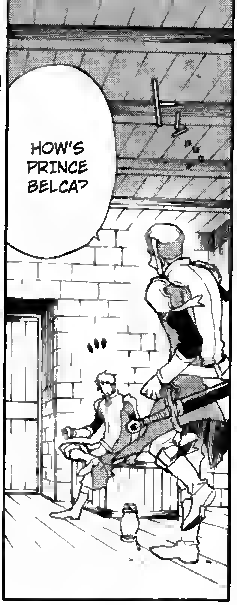
I SHOULD HAVE
SENT THEM ON THEIR WAY
FIRST THING IN THE MORNING
THEN
BOTH ECO AND LINNA WOULD HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF THE CASTLE SAFELY
.....
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO ALWAYS COME TO MY RESCUE.
YET I..

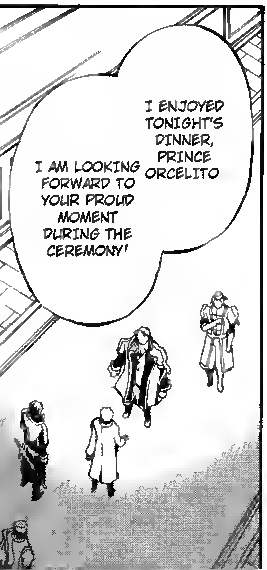

I DEPENDED TOO MUCH ON LINNA
AND I TRIED TO DELAY HIM BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE

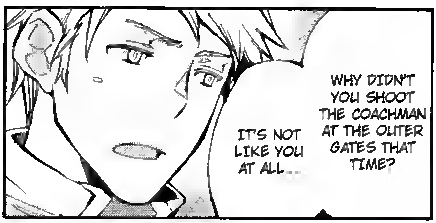
IT'S ALL...
...ALL BECAUSE OF THAT ...
[Plus-Size]
OP IV
遊行寺たま

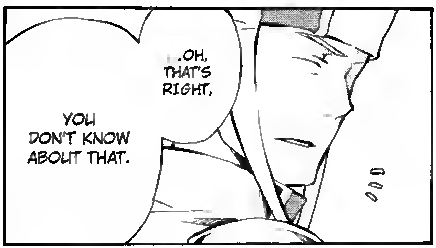

BUT STILL, BEING LOCKED UP INSIDE THIS CREEPY TOWER WITHOUT EVEN LIGHTS...
I HOPE HE DOESN'T GO CRAZY...
QUIET AS A MOUSE


HOW'S PRINCE BELCA?

—UM, MASTER!
ALRIGHT THEN, I'LL LEAVE EVERYTHING TO YOU TONIGHT.


I ENJOYED TONIGHT'S DINNER, PRINCE ORCELITO
I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO YOUR PROUD MOMENT DURING THE CEREMONY!

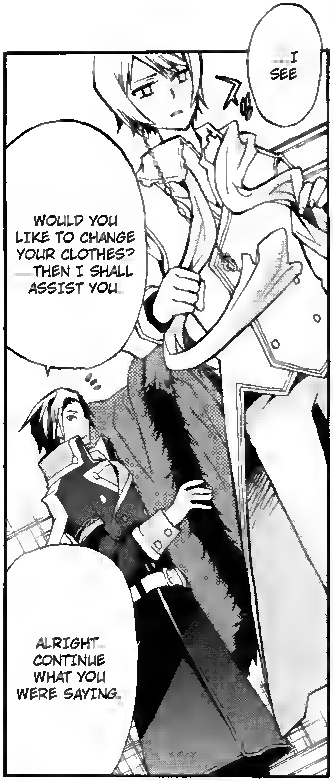

WHY DIDN'T YOU SHOOT THE COACHMAN AT THE OUTER GATES THAT TIME?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU AT ALL...


...OH, THAT'S RIGHT,
YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.

THANK YOU.
REST WELL TONIGHT LORD TAINE.
.....
NOW THAT WE'VE TAKEN CARE OF THAT,
NEXT... WE HAVE TO FINISH THAT LETTER TO LOBNEC.
YES
ALSO, WE RECEIVED THE ESTIMATES FOR THE AMONTEL DETENTION CAMPS. PLEASE GO OVER IT WITHIN THE DAY.
AND THERE'S THAT OTHER MATTER...
...ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT PRINCE BELCA?
—OF COURSE I AM.
I KNOW. YES,

...DO YOU THINK HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH?
WE HAVE NOT CONFIRMED IT AS OF THIS TIME
I SENT A MESSENGER TO NOAH'S PLACE, BUT IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME BEFORE WE RECEIVE ANY RESPONSE.
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE POISON USER? YOU INTERROGATED HIM, DIDN'T YOU?
IF HE ISN'T A POISON USER, WHY DID HE PRETEND TO BE ONE AND INFILTRATED THE CASTLE?
HE SAID, HE FELT INDEBTED TO PRINCE BELCA, SO HE PRETENDED TO BE A POISON USER TO BE ABLE TO STAY AT HIS SIDE AND PROTECT HIM.
SIR LINNA IS A FORMER SOLDIER PRINCE BELCA RESCUED HIM FROM THE AMONTEL AT THE EARL OF ARLON'S ESTATE...

—HOWEVER, I THINK WE CAN USE HIM,
AS PRINCE BELCA'S SHACKLES.


...I SEE
WOULD YOU LIKE TO CHANGE YOUR CLOTHES? THEN I SHALL ASSIST YOU.
ALRIGHT. CONTINUE WHAT YOU WERE SAYING.

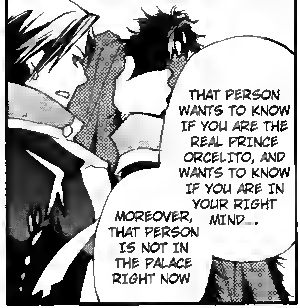
ARE YOU INSANE!? IF THAT MAN PLANS TO CAUSE TROUBLE HERE IN THE PALACE. .

DURING THE INTERROGATION. . HE WAS DESPERATELY TRYING TO DEFEND PRINCE BELCA
I THINK THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HE HAS SOMEHOW GROWN ATTACHED TO PRINCE BELCA

IN THAT CASE... THEN IT IS NATURAL THAT PRINCE BELCA WOULD NOT WANT TO LOSE SOMEONE WHO IS LIKE AN OLDER BROTHER TO HIM
.....
AND BECAUSE SIR LINNA TREATS HIM WELL, PERHAPS PRINCE BELCA FELT COMFORTABLE WITH HIM, AS HE FELT TOWARD PRINCE HECTOR ?

BUT... I'M BOTHERED ABOUT THE PERSON TO WHOM THE COACHMAN IS SUPPOSED TO GIVE THE MESSAGE
THE CROWS HEARD SOMETHING, RIGHT?
IS THAT WHY HE WAS SO INSISTENT IN COVERING FOR THAT MAN?
IF SHE WISHES IT, PLEASE ACCOMPANY HER TO WHEREVER SHE WANTS TO GO—
HOWEVER,
YOU ARE REFERRING TO THIS "SHE"
THE MESSAGE!
AND WHY IS THAT?
ISN'T THE COACHMAN JUST A SERVANT?
...BUT,
MORE IMPORTANTLY, ABOUT THIS "SHE"—
I THINK THAT IT IS THE COACHMAN WHO WE SHOULD BE SUSPICIOUS ABOUT,
NOT SIR LINNA NOR THIS "SHE".

DON'T TELL ME...
"SHE" IS...

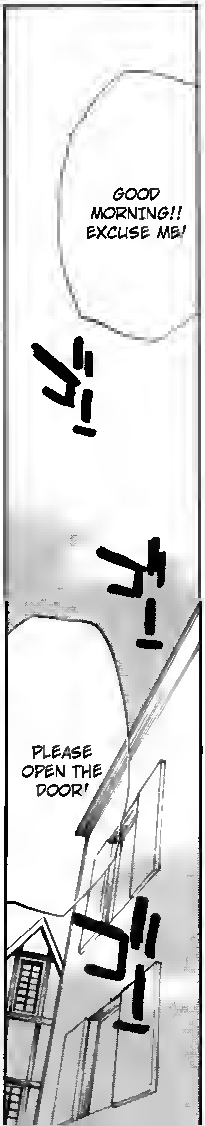

THAT PERSON WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU ARE THE REAL PRINCE ORCELITO, AND WANTS TO KNOW IF YOU ARE IN YOUR RIGHT MIND...
MOREOVER, THAT PERSON IS NOT IN THE PALACE RIGHT NOW

AND SPEAKING OF SOME-ONE,
WHO, LIKE NOAH AND OTHER NOBLES, COULD NOT OPENLY CONTACT THE PALACE USING BIRDS OR MESSENGERS--

.....
HM?

IT'S BEAUTIFUL SO I TOOK ONE
OH... IT'S THE CORDIOLA CRYSTAL FROM THE FOX'S CAVE
WHAT'S THAT?
THE LIGHT IS WEAK...
BUT IF BRING IT CLOSER, I WONDER IF IT'S BRIGHT ENOUGH TO BE ABLE TO READ
SOME-THING'S SHINING...
WHAT THE...
WHAT'S THIS PAGE?
HP
.....?

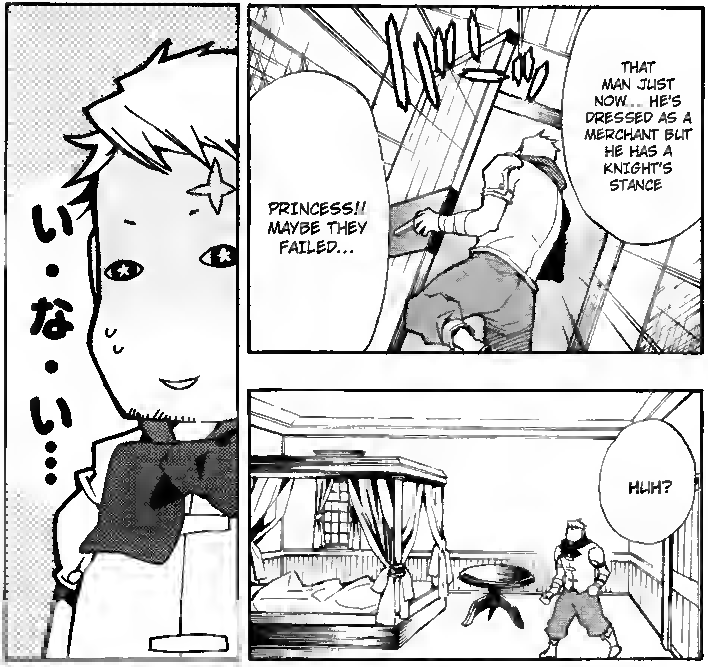
WHAT THE ..? WHAT'S WITH ALL THE BANGING NOISE THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING ..


GOOD MORNING!! EXCUSE ME!
ドン!
ドン!
PLEASE OPEN THE DOOR!
ゴン!

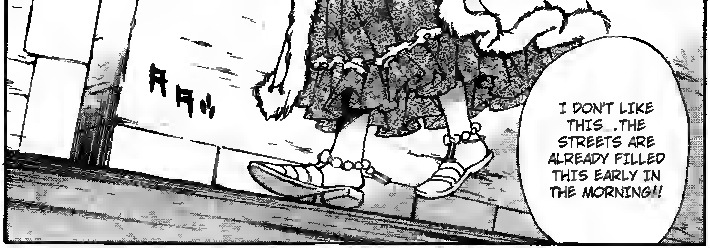
IT'S IMPORTANT THAT I FIND HIM BY NOON.
HEY, KEEP IT DOWN! WE'RE NOT OPEN YET. WHO ARE YOU?!
SORRY BUT I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE
MY COMPANION AND I GOT SEPARATED WHEN WE ENTERED TOWN...
..OH, ALRIGHT. WHAT DOES HE LOOK LIKE?

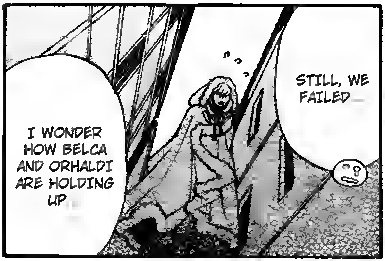
A MAN WITH CURLY BLONDE HAIR? THERE'S NO ONE LIKE THAT STAYING AT THIS INN.
WHY DON'T YOU TRY ASKING THE OTHER INNS?

THIS IS BAD!!!
CRAP...


い・な・い…
PRINCESS!! MAYBE THEY FAILED...
THAT MAN JUST NOW... HE'S DRESSED AS A MERCHANT BUT HE HAS A KNIGHT'S STANCE
HUH?

SHE'S GONE...

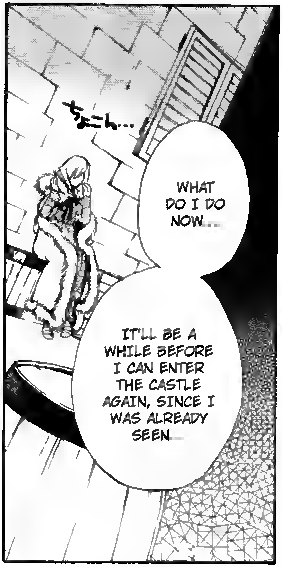

I DON'T LIKE THIS .THE STREETS ARE ALREADY FILLED THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING!!

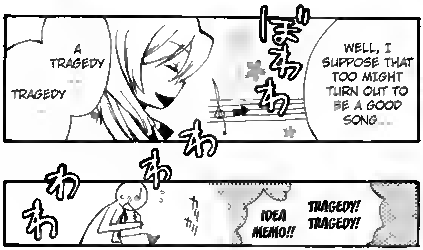

I WONDER HOW BELCA AND ORHALDI ARE HOLDING UP...
STILL, WE FAILED...

BUT I'M GLAD I FINALLY MADE IT TO TOWN~
I REALLY HOPE THEY THINK I DIED IN THE RIVER..

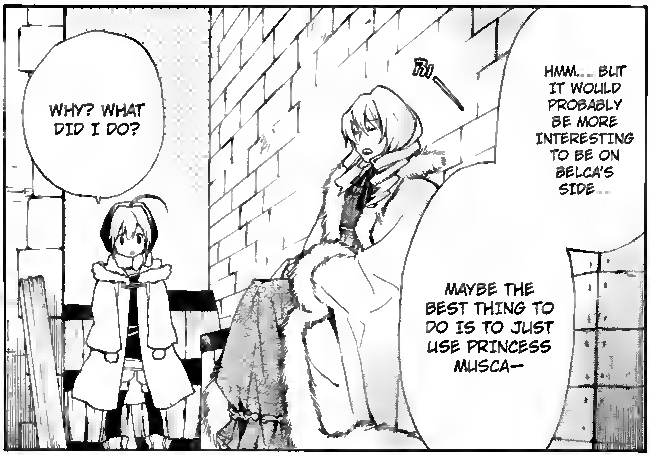
BUT IT'S BELCA'S FAULT,
'COZ THEY SUDDENLY CAME AT THE LAST MINUTE!
YUP, THAT'S IT!!

AND IF I DO THAT...THEY MIGHT KILL ORHALDI,
OR WORSE, THEY MIGHT DO LOTS OF THINGS TO BELCA THAT WOULD INCAPACITATE HIM—


ちょこん…
WHAT DO I DO NOW…
IT'LL BE A WHILE BEFORE I CAN ENTER THE CASTLE AGAIN, SINCE I WAS ALREADY SEEN…


A TRAGEDY… TRAGEDY…
WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT TOO MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE A GOOD SONG…
わ
わ
わ
わ
わ
IDEA MEMO!!
TRAGEDY! TRAGEDY!

Huh?


WHY? WHAT DID I DO?
ﾌﾑ…
HMM… BUT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE MORE INTERESTING TO BE ON BELCA'S SIDE…
MAYBE THE BEST THING TO DO IS TO JUST USE PRINCESS MUSCA—

AH-!
OH... IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK! I'M NOT MUSCA! I'M JUST A KID FROM THIS TOWN!!
UM, THAT DRESS .. YOU'RE A "LADY" RIGHT?
COULD YOU PLEASE FIX MUSCA'S HAIR?
.....
I THOUGHT .. I SHOULD FIX MY HAIR SINCE I'M GOING TO THE CASTLE
...ER...
...YOU SEE, I HAVE SOMETHING TO DO AT THE CASTLE...
とと...
IT'S NO GOOD IF IT'S NOT DONE BY A LADY
IT'S ME, ECO-TAN!
And those are just hair extensions
MY KNIGHT DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO FIX MY HAIR!
AND

……!!
……
KYAA—!!
ccc
WH… WHAT?! YOU CAN'T BE THE MEANIE BARD!!!
SHHHH!!! PLEASE KEEP QUIET, PRINCESS MUSCA!!
LET ME GO~ I DON'T REMEMBER GIVING YOU PERMISSION TO HUG ME~
PLEASE LISTEN, BELCA AND ORHALDI ARE IN TROUBLE~!!
…WHAT…?

OH WELL . I JUST WANTED TO WATCH THE ADINE DANCE SO BADLY
ISN'T THAT YOUR FAULT?
.....
EVEN CUTE ECO -TAN HAS A WEAKNESS ...
BUT ..
I THINK HAVING A WEAKNESS IS MUCH MORE APPEALING THAN BEING PERFECT.
-BESIDES,
WAAAH!! KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN!
WE HAVE TO HURRY UP AND RESCUE THEM OR ELSE THEY MIGHT DIE!!
...I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THAT!!

I HAVE TO SEE FOR MYSELF WHAT'S HAPPENING TO BIG BROTHER ORCELITO!!
LET'S GO BARD!!
YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!!
...I SEE.
THIS LOOKS EVEN BETTER THAN A TRAGEDY.
.....
ALRIGHT.
OH!
BUT BEFORE THAT, COULD YOU FIX MY HAIR FIRST?
I'LL HELP YOU.

WHAT IS YOUR RANK?
I ANSWERED THAT SO MANY TIMES ALREADY
WHY DID YOU USE A FALSE TITLE AND ENTER THE CASTLE?
I WAS A FORMER SOLDIER. BUT HIS HIGHNESS PRINCE BELCA SAVED MY LIFE AT THE ESTATE OF THE EARL OF ARLON,
SO I WANTED TO STAY AT HIS SIDE TO REPAY MY DEBT, AND—
SIR KILIKO!
IT SEEMS THAT THERE'S NOTHING TO INVESTIGATE ANY FURTHER
...I SEE NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES WE ASK, YOUR ANSWER IS CONSISTENT...

フル...
HOW ARE YOUR WOUNDS, SIR LINNA..?
SIR KILIKO...
ARE YOU PLANNING TO TORTURE ME THIS TIME?
NO
THERE'S NO NEED FOR THAT NOW.
TELL HIS HIGHNESS TO COME IN
YES SIR
!

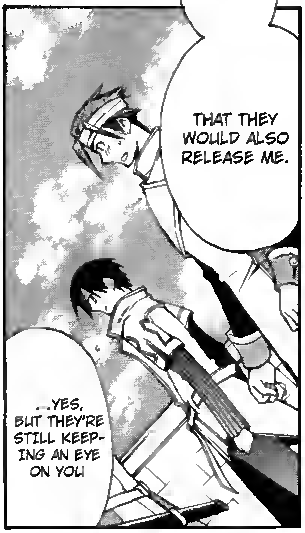
LINNA, HOW'S..
..YOUR WOUND!?
...YOUR HIGHNESS ..!
THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE
...SAFE.
AH, IT IS NOTHING.
IT IS JUST A SCRATCH, IT IS NOT THAT SERI—
...ARE YOU SURE?

ABOUT THAT PERSON TO WHOM SIR LINNA WAS SUPPOSED TO GIVE THE MESSAGE...
"SHE", IN OTHER WORDS, PRINCESS MUSCA—
...YOUR HIGHNESS?
HEY, TAKE THESE CHAINS OFF!
I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO HURT HIM ANY FURTHER!!
HOWEVER, BEFORE THAT, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU BOTH ABOUT SOMETHING.
BUT OF COURSE...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, SIR...
WHA—
HOW?

PRINCESS MUSCA IS NOT SUPPOSED TO ATTEND THE INVESTITURE BECAUSE SHE IS IN RECOVERY.
YOU MUST TELL US WHERE SHE IS, BECAUSE WE NEED TO GO AND FETCH HER.
ハァ
……
IT SEEMS THAT IT IS PRINCESS MUSCA.
I'M GLAD THAT BOTH OF YOU ARE HONEST.

I NEVER THOUGHT ...


THAT THEY WOULD ALSO RELEASE ME.
...YES, BUT THEY'RE STILL KEEPING AN EYE ON YOU

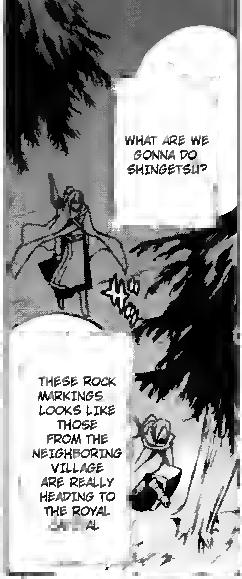
YOUR HIGHNESS,
whisper
I APOLOGIZE FOR WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER

WELL THEN,
PLEASE RETURN TO REGIA NIX PALACE, YOUR HIGHNESS
I THINK YOU SHOULD PREPARE FOR TOMORROW'S INVESTITURE CEREMONY.

TH...THEN WE HAVE TO INFORM THEM SOMEHOW...
IT'S OKAY.
WHAT?
SURELY, THEY MUST HAVE LEFT THE ROYAL PREFECTURE BY NOW—
BUT SIR ECO HAS ALREADY GONE TO WHERE PRINCESS MUSCA IS
AFTER THAT INCIDENT, THE KNIGHTS CHASED ECO AND HE FELL INTO THE RIVER AT THE TOWN DISTRICT
THEY HAVEN'T FOUND HIM SINCE
IT'S ALRIGHT NOW,
...FORGET ABOUT IT.

AH! LINNA.
ABOUT THE BOOK THAT WE GOT THE OTHER DAY, I FOUND SOMETHING INTERESTING
WON'T YOU HELP ME FIGURE IT OUT?
YOUR HIGHNESS
WHOA! WHAT'S THIS!?
IT'S JUST AS IZAYOI SAID!!

IT'S NOT THE TIME TO INVITE THEM FOR A SKIRMISH... THIS MIGHT BECOME AN ALL-OUT WAR
SO THEY CHOOSE TO FIGHT BACK AND DIE WITH HONOR. HUH? IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THEY FEEL, BUT THEY TARGETED THE WORST PLACE


WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO SHINGETSU?
THESE ROCK MARKINGS LOOKS LIKE THOSE FROM THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGE ARE REALLY HEADING TO THE ROYAL CAPITAL

AND THAT KID IS SUPPOSEDLY AT THE STONE CASTLE TOO...
SHALL WE GO? YOU'RE WORRIED TOO, RIGHT?
WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE HE SEEMS TO BE THE TYPE OF PERSON THAT WOULD DIE IF HE WAS SHOT BY A STRAY ARROW

EVERYTHING IS GOING WELL WITH PRINCE ORCELITO... THAT'S A RELIEF.
NEUE FAVRILLE FIRST LEVEL CATHEDRAL
SO THE TIME HAS COME...
.....
HOWEVER... THAT ADOPTED LAGEN PLAYS HIS CARDS WELL.
STILL. HE IS THE PUPPETMASTER... AND IF HE IS THE REAL BRAINS OF THE CROWN PRINCE.
DOESN'T THIS WIDEN LAGEN'S POWER WITHIN THE COUNCIL?
SHOULD WE MAKE OUR MOVE NOW, WHILE THERE'S STILL TIME...?

NO... THAT MAN MAY BE EASIER TO CONTROL THAN HIS FATHER.
IF HE'S PREPARED TO KNEEL BEFORE US, THEN IT'S PROBABLY A GOOD IDEA TO LET HIM BECOME THE SUCCESSOR.

—WELL THEN,
……
ゴゴ
ゴゴ
ゴゴ
IT'S TIME FOR US TO WITNESS THE BIRTH OF THE CROWN PRINCE...
SOMETHING HAPPENS DURING THE CROWN PRINCE'S INVESTITURE!?

I Eat Manga

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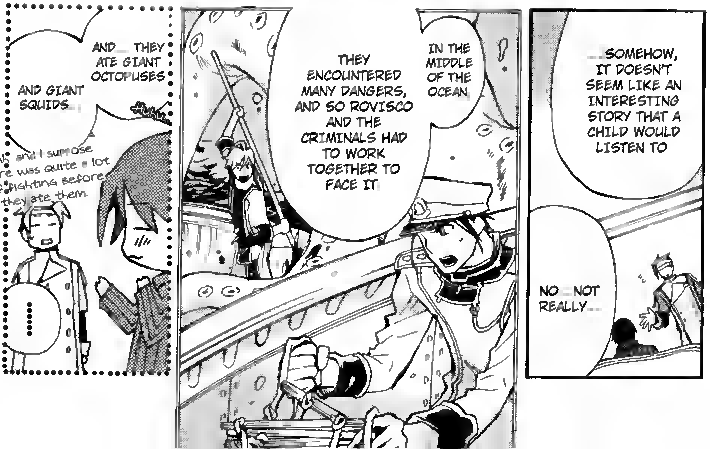
BROTHER'S BOOK...
A PAGE IS ACTUALLY 2 PAGES STUCK TOGETHER, AND IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHING'S WRITTEN INSIDE!!
INSIDE HECTOR'S BOOK.....
I SAW IT WHEN I HELD IT AGAINST THE LIGHT...
I HOPE IT PEELS OFF PROPERLY..
WHAT'S THAT BOOK? IS IT THE ONE FROM PRINCE HECTOR'S PRIVATE STUDY?
THOSE TWO READING A PORN BOOK... HOW EMBARRASSING
NO...!!

IS THIS...
.....!?
...ANCIENT WRITING?
I HAVE NOT STUDIED IT...
I ONLY KNOW THAT THE ANCIENT LANGUAGE IS READ FROM RIGHT TO LEFT.
NOT REALLY. I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS ANCIENT LANGUAGE STUFF BUT,
...WHEN I WAS LITTLE, BROTHER SHOWED THIS PART TO ME
...PRINCE HECTOR DID?!
"TO TOWA HESERU"
"ZEMURIYA.. RAIKA"
YOU CAN READ IT!?

BIG BROTHER... IS THIS SOME KIND OF WRITING? I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT AT ALL...
LOOKS WEIRD DOESN'T IT?
BUT YOU KNOW, THIS IS A STORY BOOK...
IT IS SAID THAT, TO THE FAR WEST OF AZELPRADE .
...THERE'S A GREAT WATERFALLS AT THE EDGE OF THE OCEAN, RIGHT?
EDGE OF THE OCEAN (GREAT WATERFALLS)
THE GREAT OCEAN
AZELPRADE KINGDOM
THE STORY IS ABOUT A CREW OF A SHIP FROM AN UNKNOWN COUNTRY BEYOND IT.
THERE IS A COUNTRY
...BEYOND THE EDGE OF THE OCEAN?

SOME TIME AFTER THEY SET SAIL,
THERE WAS A MAN NAMED ROVISCO AND HE WAS THE CAPTAIN OF A LARGE SHIP
ONE TIME, HE SET SAIL WITH MANY PASSENGERS ON HIS SHIP
THEY SUDDENLY LOST CONTACT WITH THEIR COUNTRY
BUT THOSE PASSENGERS WERE MURDERERS AND CRIMINALS WHO WERE EXILED FROM THEIR COUNTRY...

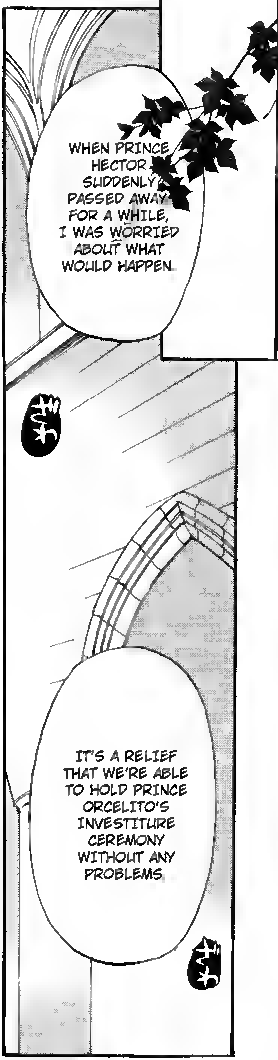

AND... THEY ATE GIANT OCTOPUSES AND GIANT SQUIDS...
Ah... and I suppose there was quite a lot of fighting before they ate them.
IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN
THEY ENCOUNTERED MANY DANGERS, AND SO ROVISCO AND THE CRIMINALS HAD TO WORK TOGETHER TO FACE IT
...SOMEHOW, IT DOESN'T SEEM LIKE AN INTERESTING STORY THAT A CHILD WOULD LISTEN TO
NO... NOT REALLY...

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S JUST MAKE-BELIEVE
HOW COULD THERE BE A COUNTRY BEYOND THE WATERFALLS?
PERHAPS THIS IS SOME KIND OF RECORD OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE PAST
—WAIT A MINUTE...
LET'S LOOK AT THE OTHER TWO BOOKS LATER
THIS BRINGS BACK OLD TIMES .I WONDER IF THIS IS WHAT BROTHER WANTED TO SHOW ME
BUT . YOUR HIGHNESS, DON'T YOU THINK IT'S STRANGE FOR A MERE STORY TO BE WRITTEN IN THE ANCIENT LANGUAGE?
THEY LOST CONTACT WITH THEIR COUNTRY. THAT'S RIGHT. BECAUSE IT WAS DESTROYED.
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, THE SHIP'S CAPTAIN AND HIS PASSENGERS
THAT'S THE REASON WHY EVERYONE WORKED TOGETHER IN ORDER TO SURVIVE---

YOUR HIGH-NESS..
IF I MAY SPEAK...
MAYBE THE HIDDEN PAGES ARE PRINCE HECTOR'S MESSAGE AFTER ALL
PERHAPS HE WANTED TO PASS THIS ON TO YOU...
AND ENTRUST TO YOU THE THINGS HE LEARNED...
LET'S ALSO INVESTIGATE THE OTHER TWO BOOKS!
IF WE COULD USE IT WITH DISCRETION, WE CAN DISCUSS WITH PRINCE ORCELITO AND ABOUT SIR ECO TOO...
NO.
WHA--
THERE'S NO NEED FOR A DISCUSSION.
BUT... SIR ECO IS...

THIS BOOK IS JUST A BOOK... IT'S ONLY A STORY.
I THINK IT'S BETTER TO LEAVE IT THAT WAY.
... YOUR HIGHNESS
---COULD YOU,
...NOT TRUST ME?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THAT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THIS.
I KNOW HOW GOOD YOU ARE...
...

---HM?
WHO IS THAT?
OH... IT'S HIS HIGHNESS, PRINCE BELCA
I HAD THE CHANCE TO SEE HIM WHEN I VISITED THE ROYAL PREFECTURE BEFORE

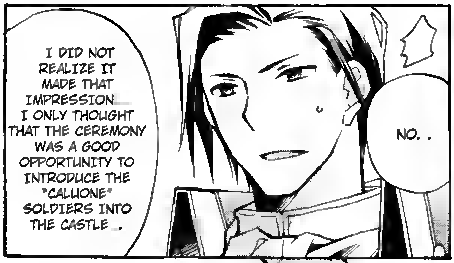

WHEN PRINCE HECTOR SUDDENLY PASSED AWAY FOR A WHILE, I WAS WORRIED ABOUT WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.
IT'S A RELIEF THAT WE'RE ABLE TO HOLD PRINCE ORCELITO'S INVESTITURE CEREMONY WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS.

...
HE'S BEEN HERE IN THE CASTLE ALL ALONG.
HE BEING CAUGHT IN A CONSPIRACY AND EMBARKING ON A JOURNEY WAS JUST A BARD'S TALE AFTER ALL.
THE PEOPLE IN THE TERRITORIES MUST BE DISAPPOINTED.

THERE SEEMS TO BE NO PROBLEM WITH BELCA.
THIS WILL PROBABLY CLEAR UP THAT ANNOYING RUMOR.
ABOUT ORCELITO AND BELCA.
IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE TAKEN CARE OF THAT ISSUE WELL DONE.
KILIKO—
!

ARE YOU PLANNING ON CREATING A NEW ARMY?
YOU CALLED THE KNIGHTS OF ADINE HERE FOR THE "DANCE"...

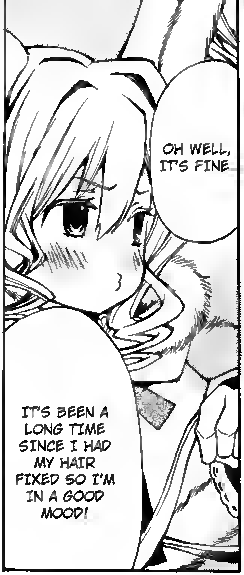
FATHER, I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOUR SAFE RETURN!
KILIKO,


I DID NOT REALIZE IT MADE THAT IMPRESSION... I ONLY THOUGHT THAT THE CEREMONY WAS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO INTRODUCE THE "CALUONE" SOLDIERS INTO THE CASTLE .
NO. .

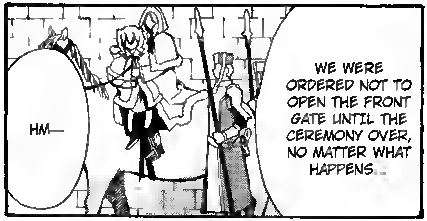
---I SEE
IN THAT CASE, MAKE SURE THEY'RE WELL REPLACED,
WITHOUT THE OLD-TIMERS KNOWING ABOUT IT...

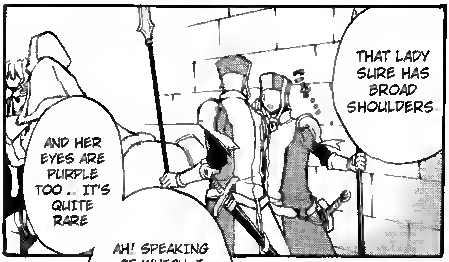
---HM?

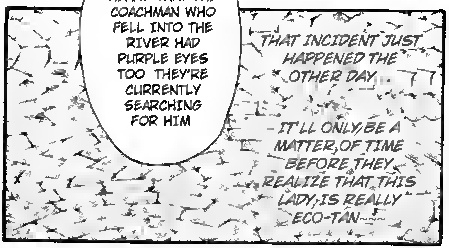
PRINCESS MUSCA SUDDENLY RETURNED, TOGETHER WITH A SINGLE HORSEMAN
IT APPEARS THAT SHE WANTS TO ATTEND THE CEREMONY...
WHAT'S GOING ON? THERE'S QUITE A COMMOTION OUTSIDE
IF THERE'S A CROWD SEND THEM AWAY BECAUSE PRINCE ORCELITO IS NOT SCHEDULED TO SHOW HIMSELF ON THE RAMPARTS
--- NO, ACTUALLY .
SHE RETURNED FROM CHEZ WITH JUST A SINGLE HORSEMAN!? ARE YOU SURE SHE'S THE PRINCESS!?
THE NOBLES ARE ATTENDING THE CEREMONY RIGHT NOW SO WE CAN'T CONTACT THEM
IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE FROM THE GUARDS' DIVISION WILL CHECK TO SEE IF IT'S REALLY HER OR NOT.

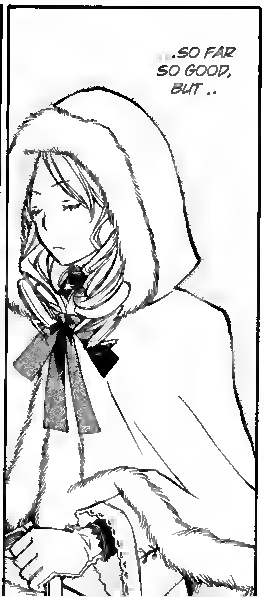

OH WELL, IT'S FINE
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I HAD MY HAIR FIXED SO I'M IN A GOOD MOOD!

HEY, DOESN'T THIS LEAD TO THE NORTH GATE?
WHY CAN'T WE ENTER THROUGH THE FRONT GATE?

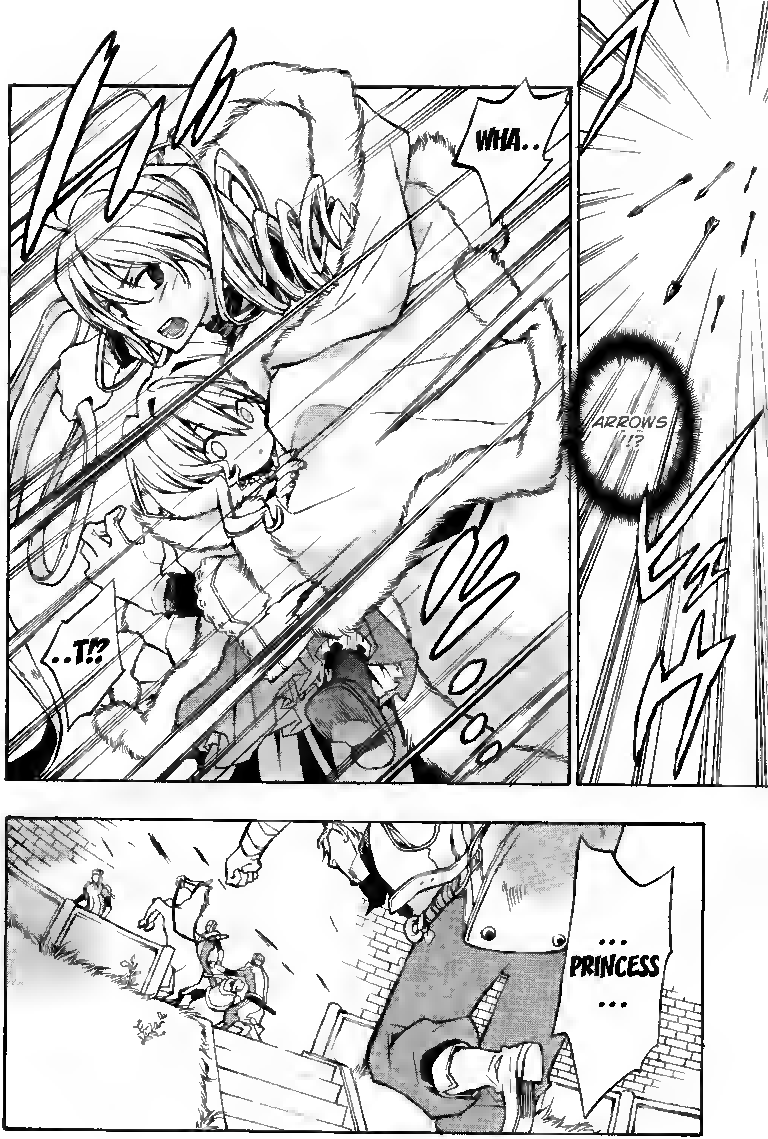

HM—
WE WERE ORDERED NOT TO OPEN THE FRONT GATE UNTIL THE CEREMONY OVER, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.


AND HER EYES ARE PURPLE TOO. IT'S QUITE RARE
THAT LADY SURE HAS BROAD SHOULDERS


AH! SPEAKING OF WHICH, I HEARD THAT THE COACHMAN WHO FELL INTO THE RIVER HAD PURPLE EYES TOO. THEY'RE CURRENTLY SEARCHING FOR HIM
THAT INCIDENT JUST HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY...
IT'LL ONLY BE A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE THEY REALIZE THAT THIS LADY IS REALLY ECO-TAN...


...SO FAR SO GOOD, BUT..

HMM, WHAT IF I USE PRINCESS MUSCA AS A HOSTAGE...?
...
HEY
YOU FOOLS! WHAT ARE STANDING AROUND FOR!?
SEAMROG..
LOOK TO THE EAST-NORTHEAST!!!


WHA..
ARROWS!?
..T!?
...
PRINCESS
...

SEAMROG, WHY?
I'M TAKING A BREAK FROM BEING A LADY....

JUST AS WE THOUGHT... THEY SAID "PRINCESS"
THAT MEANS SHE'S A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY
...

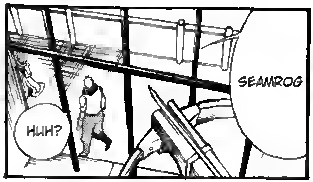
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT PRINCESS?
THEY'LL COME IF YOU WAIT AROUND, STROLLING ALONG THIS AREA.
BECAUSE THE AMONTEL ALREADY FOUND THIS PLACE
ガラッ
ガラッ

OH SPIRIT OF THE WIND
WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THEE

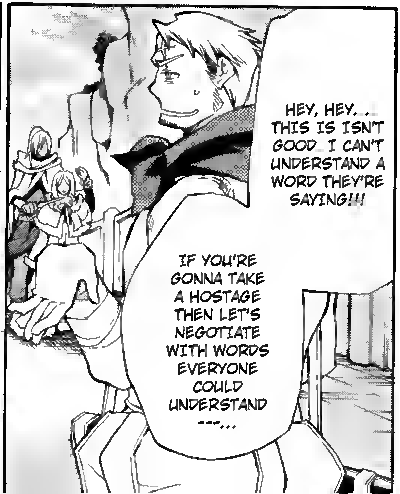
WE WON'T LET YOU GET AWAY
ESPECIALLY NOW THAT WE'VE FOUND A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OUTSIDE THE CASTLE!
THANK YOU! YOU SHOULD HURRY UP TOO BECAUSE THEY'LL BE FIRING CROSSBOWS FROM THE RAMPARTS!!
THEY'RE IN THE TREES BY THE CLIFF ON THE OTHER SIDE!!
HURRY UP AND TAKE THE PRINCESS AND THE WOUNDED INSIDE THE CASTLE!! I'LL TAKE THE MAID!
DON'T CHASE AFTER THEM BECAUSE THEY'LL SHOOT ARROWS!!
I DON'T GIVE A DAMN!
HERE THEY COME... BE CAREFUL NOT TO HIT THE HUMANS
DAMN...
THEY'RE USING CROSSBOWS...

EEEEO UCH!!
HEY MR ECO, CAN YOU GET UP?
WE HAVE TO GO!
UH .. OKAY.
WHAT—!?
TUG, TUG
ER— MY COAT IS STUCK—
WE WON'T DIE..
NOR WILL WE TURN BACK
HOWEVER
UNTIL WE GET OUR REVENGE,

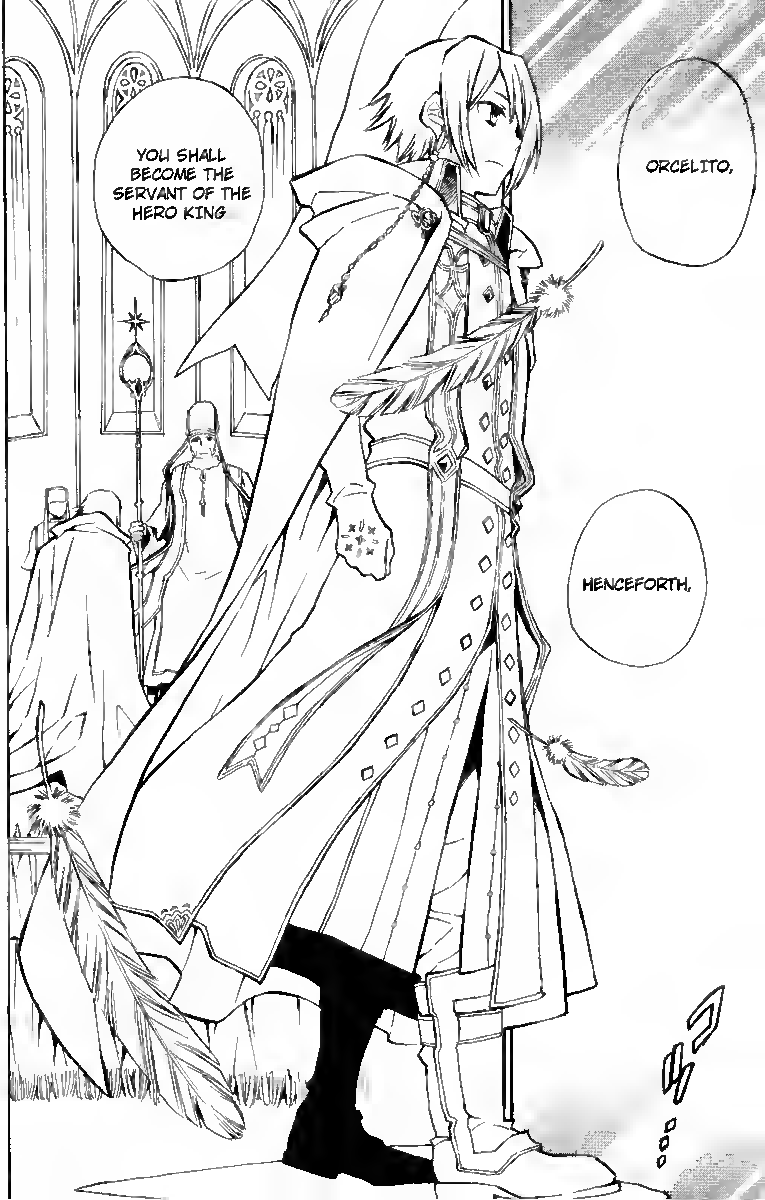
THE PRINCE...
THE "PRINCESS" GOT AWAY BUT...
WE'LL USE THIS ONE AS A HOSTAGE TO BUY US SOME TIME... WE HOKULEA WILL SURELY FIND A WAY TO GET PAST THIS STONE WALL.
WE'LL BE TAKING THIS ONE.
AND THEN.. THE PRINCE..


SEAMROG
HUH?

EH?

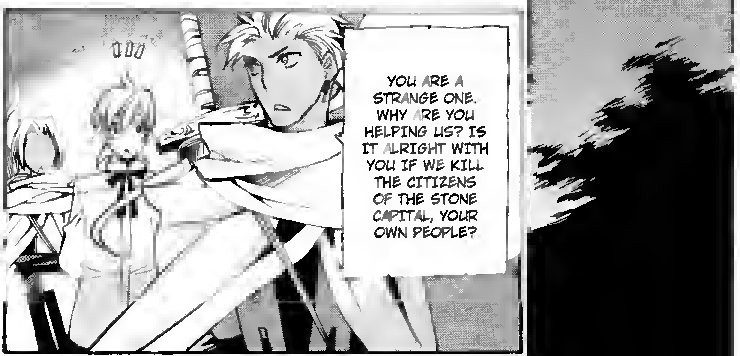

HEY, HEY... THIS IS ISN'T GOOD. I CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD THEY'RE SAYING!!!
IF YOU'RE GONNA TAKE A HOSTAGE THEN LET'S NEGOTIATE WITH WORDS EVERYONE COULD UNDERSTAND ---...

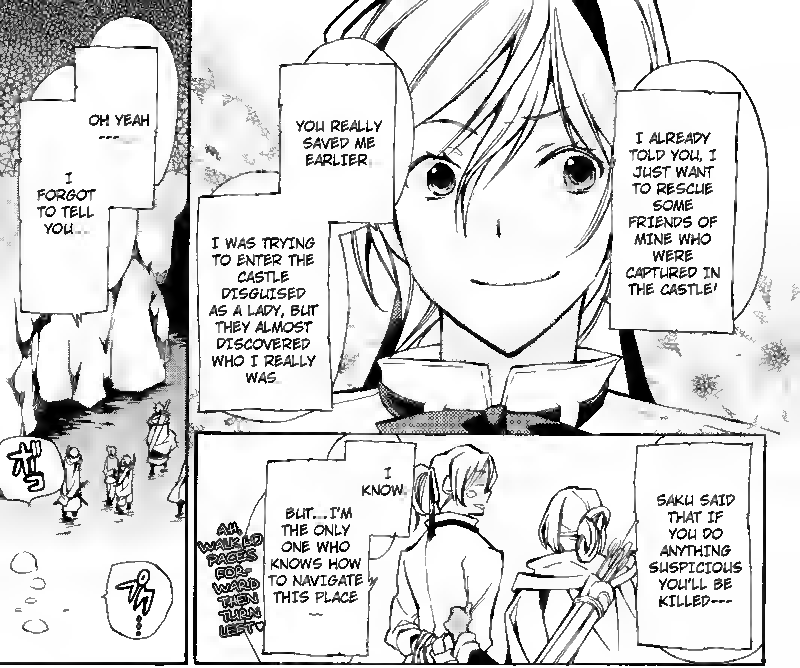
"I'M GONNA BE FINE."
"JUST LET THEM GO."
WE'VE GONE DOWN THIS WAY...
WHAT?
HEY... WAIT...
IS ..HE REALLY GONNA BE OKAY?
YOU WHO INHERITED THE BLOOD OF THE VALIANT SAVIOR, WHO DESCENDED FROM HEAVEN IN THE ANCIENT TIMES


YOU SHALL BECOME THE SERVANT OF THE HERO KING
ORCELITO,
HENCEFORTH,

ANYWAYS, I'M SLEEPY...
WHEN HE ASCENDS TO THE THRONE, HE BECOMES THE GUARDIAN WHO WILL PROTECT THIS COUNTRY WITH HIS OWN POWER...OR SO I HEARD
APPARENTLY, TO BECOME CROWN PRINCE MEANS TO BECOME THE SERVANT OF THE HERO KING
...SERVANT OF THE HERO KING..?
FINALLY, THE MAIN CEREMONY AFTER THIS, THERE WILL BE SINGING AND DANCING
YAWN
---YEAH
...YOU BROUGHT THAT IN HERE!?
THIS IS CATHERINA!!
IF YOU'RE BORED, WOULD YOU LIKE TO READ PRINCE HECTOR'S BOOK?
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THAT
...I THINK
...YOUR HIGHNESS
COULD YOU NOT TRUST ME?

THERE'S A WATERWAY IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?
ゴゴゴ…
YUP.
THIS WATERWAY DRAINS THE CASTLE WASTE WATER INTO THE RIVER
THIS WAY IS SAFER THAN GOING ON A SUICIDE MISSION!
ヒソ…

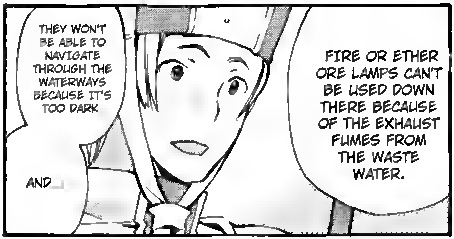

YOU ARE A STRANGE ONE. WHY ARE YOU HELPING US? IS IT ALRIGHT WITH YOU IF WE KILL THE CITIZENS OF THE STONE CAPITAL, YOUR OWN PEOPLE?


I ALREADY TOLD YOU, I JUST WANT TO RESCUE SOME FRIENDS OF MINE WHO WERE CAPTURED IN THE CASTLE!
YOU REALLY SAVED ME EARLIER.
I WAS TRYING TO ENTER THE CASTLE DISGUISED AS A LADY, BUT THEY ALMOST DISCOVERED WHO I REALLY WAS.
OH YEAH ---
I FORGOT TO TELL YOU...
SAKU SAID THAT IF YOU DO ANYTHING SUSPICIOUS YOU'LL BE KILLED---
I KNOW.
BUT...I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS HOW TO NAVIGATE THIS PLACE ~
AH, WOULD PAGE'S FORWARD THEN TURN LEFT?
THERE ARE---
SCARY MONSTERS IN HERE...
BUT IT'S A PITY THAT THEN COULD ONLY SURVIVE IN THESE WATERS...

WHY YOU...
YOU TRICKED US!!?
NO WAY! I DIDN'T TRICK YOU!!
ECO-TAN CAN'T EVEN SEE IN THIS DARK PLACE!!!
BESIDES, I'LL BE IN TROUBLE IF YOU GUYS DIE ON ME!!!
I'M REALLY SCARED, SO HURRY UP AND GET RID OF THEM!!!
SIGH
OH, YOU CAME TO TAKE THE WATER OUT? THANKS FOR WORKING SO HARD!
YEAH— WE'RE COOKING LOTS OF FOOD FOR THE GUESTS.

YEAH, IT'S GOING TO BE OKAY.
AMONTEL!? THAT'S SCARY...
IS IT GOING TO BE ALRIGHT? AREN'T THE WATERWAYS CONNECTED TO THE OUTSIDE?

HEY, THERE'S A COMMOTION AT THE LOWER LEVELS. DID SOMETHING HAPPEN?
OH THAT THEY SAID SOME AMONTEL APPEARED AT THE BACK GATES.


THEY WON'T BE ABLE TO NAVIGATE THROUGH THE WATERWAYS BECAUSE IT'S TOO DARK
AND...
FIRE OR ETHER ORE LAMPS CAN'T BE USED DOWN THERE BECAUSE OF THE EXHAUST FUMES FROM THE WASTE WATER.

—YOUR HIGHNESS,

THOSE CREATURES THAT TOOK THE ROYAL FAMILY AND THE ELDERS A VERY LONG TIME TO CREATE...
THE "WATCHDOGS" LIVE DOWN THERE.

I'M NOT A CHILD...
WHO COULDN'T DO ANYTHING AND MAKE YOU WORRY.
I DECIDED TO COME HERE ON MY OWN,
KNOWING HOW DANGEROUS IT WILL BE.
—PLEASE
I BEG YOU... PLEASE TRUST ME.

..I,
IT'S NOT ...
THAT I DON'T TRUST YOU
NO. IT'S JUST THAT...
YOU'RE THE ONE,
AND ONLY---

..I SAW A LONG THIN REFLECTION OF SOMETHING OVER THERE!
...THERE'S SOMETHING OVER THERE!
...YOUR HIGHNESS!?
WHAT'S WRONG...?

WELL THEN...
SHALL I GO AND FETCH MY PRINCE?
...THEY DIDN'T KILL ME EVEN IF THEY ALREADY KNEW THEIR WAY OUT...
TOWARDS AN EVENTFUL CEREMONY!?
I GUESS THE HOKULEA DOESN'T FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THEIR PLANS AFTER ALL

I Eat Manga

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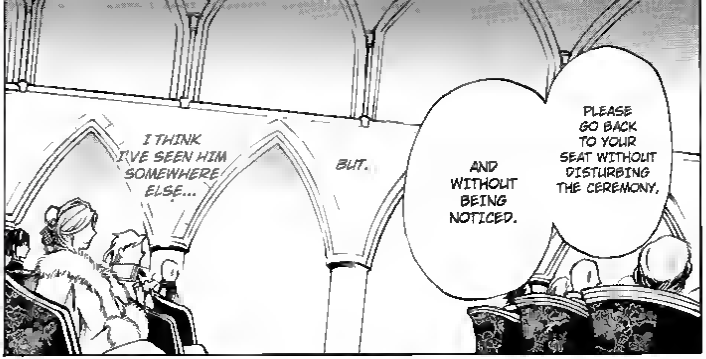
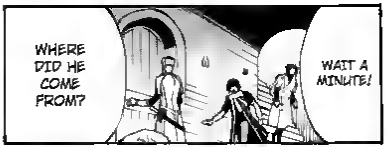
Op.21

I SAW SOMETHING... A LONG, THIN REFLECTION.
THE TERRACE ON THE OTHER SIDE...
YOUR HIGHNESS, WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I'M GONNA TAKE A LOOK.
SOMEONE MIGHT BE TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CEREMONY TO SET SOME KIND OF TRAP.
!!!

Op.21

HOKULEA...?
PLEASE KEEP QUIET YOUR HIGHNESS, PRINCE BELCA.
THIS MAN—
SOMETIMES I SEE HIM INSIDE THE CASTLE...HE'S ONE OF KILIKO LAGEN'S MEN


I THINK I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE ELSE...
BUT.
AND WITHOUT BEING NOTICED.
PLEASE GO BACK TO YOUR SEAT WITHOUT DISTURBING THE CEREMONY.


WHERE DID HE COME FROM?
WAIT A MINUTE!

YOUR HIGHNESS, PLEASE BEHAVE AND REMEMBER WHAT SIR KILIKO SAID.
IT WILL ALSO "MAKE THINGS EASIER" FOR US.

YES, YOUR HIGHNESS
LET'S GO BACK, LINNA

WAIT... EXPLAIN WHAT JUST HAPPENED!!
I SHALL EXPLAIN LATER,
BECAUSE I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THIS FIRST... AND, THERE IS AN URGENT MATTER I HAVE TO INVESTIGATE.

HOW COULD THE GODS ALLOW SUCH CREATURES TO EXIST?
IT WOULD BE BETTER OFF IF EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM WERE EXTERMINATED
MORE SECURITY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN STATIONED AT THE ENTRANCE AND EXIT
THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF AMONTEL IN THE VICINITY OF THE CATHEDRAL AS OF THIS TIME
ROGER THAT
BUT HOW WERE THOSE FILTHY CREATURES ABLE TO ENTER THE CASTLE GROUNDS?
!?
YOUR HIGHNESS
WITH ALL DUE RESPECT I THINK THAT WE SHOULD INFORM THEM ABOUT THE PLANS FOR THE CONCENTRATION CAMP
I KNOW—
BUT IT'S—

HOKULEA?!
!!
NOT AGAIN...

ALRIGHT,
ON MY SIGNAL, RIGHT ABOVE THE "PRINCE,"
WE'LL SHOW THEM.
AH!
ARE THEY WITH THE HOKULEA WE SAW A WHILE AGO ...?!
I'LL BORROW THIS.
AMONTEL... DON'T TELL ME THEY CAME FROM THE ROOF SKYLIGHT?!
WE ARE ...
...NOT THAT POWER-LESS!
DAMN!
WE'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE IT...!!

TCH....
AH...
BEL...
.....
LINNA!! TAKE CARE OF ORCELITO!!
...YES, YOUR HIGHNESS ...!!!

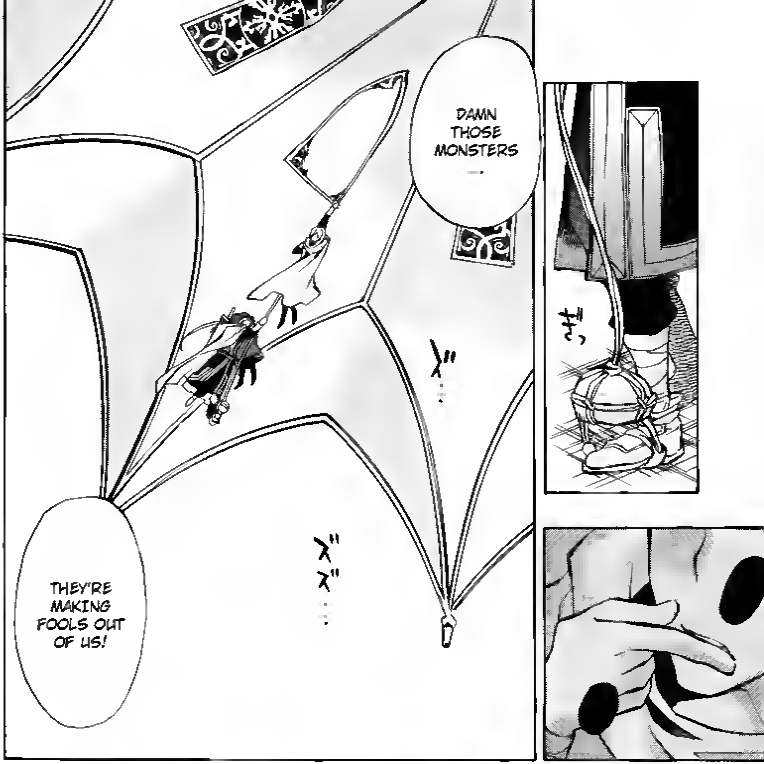
IT'S PRINCE BELCA.!!
ALRIGHT,
NOW'S OUR CHANCE... PROTECT THE CROWN PRINCE!!
I WON'T--
--LET YOU!!!
...LINNA!!
WHAT HAPPENED... ARE YOU OKAY...

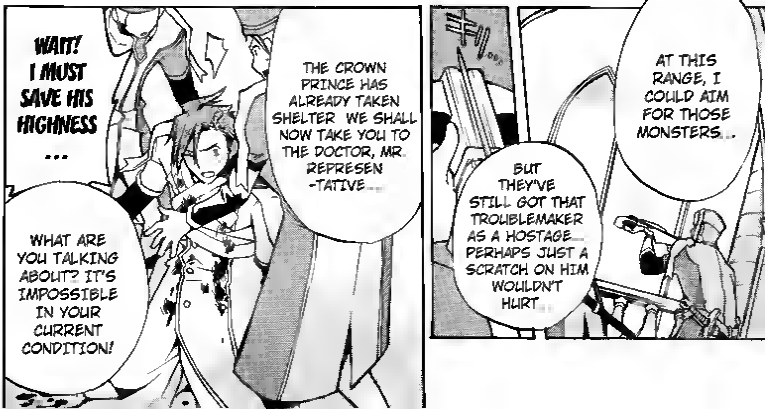
YOUR... YOUR HIGHNESS ...!!!
MR REPRESEN -TATIVE, THIS WAY PLEASE ! WE MUST STOP THE BLEEDING!
HEH.
GOOD WORK, TAIHAKU.

UH-OH.
--STOP RIGHT THERE.
FROM HERE ON, YOU WILL HAVE TO GET THROUGH US.
IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES, DROP YOUR WEAPONS AND SURRENDER!
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW, YOUR HIGHNESS, CROWN PRINCE. THIS WAY PLEASE, TO THE OTHER CHAMBER--
WA..WAIT..
BELCA'S STILL..

--WAIT
WELL . PERHAPS THEY'RE TELLING US WE'RE GOING TO DIE HERE.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY'RE SAYING.
BUT WE WERE ALREADY PREPARED FOR THAT RIGHT FROM THE START
THAT PRINCE, AND YOU PEOPLE AS WELL .
WE WILL TAKE YOU WITH US TO THE BITTER END
WHAT?!
WE WILL TAKE HIM WITH US AND RETURN TO THE WATERWAYS.
THIS HAIR PIECE... EVIDENTLY THIS CHILD IS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY.

EVEN IF YOU PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING, YOU UNDERSTAND DON'T YOU?
IF YOU TAKE ONE MORE STEP, THIS NOBLE'S HEAD COMES OFF.
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SCARED?!
I DON'T CARE ANYMORE IF I DON'T GET OUT OF HERE ALIVE...
WE WILL RETREAT FOR NOW
LET ME GO! YOU CAN STOP THE BLEEDING LATER!!
SORRY, BUT WE CAN'T DO THAT!!!
.....
WE CANNOT LET THE HERO KING'S BLOOD BE SHED--
...HIS HIGHNESS, PRINCE BELCA.

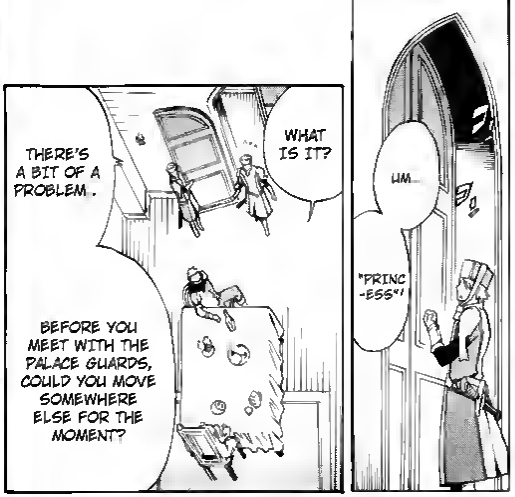

DAMN THOSE MONSTERS...
ぎゅっ
ﾒﾞﾒﾞﾒﾞ...
ﾒﾞﾒﾞ...
THEY'RE MAKING FOOLS OUT OF US!

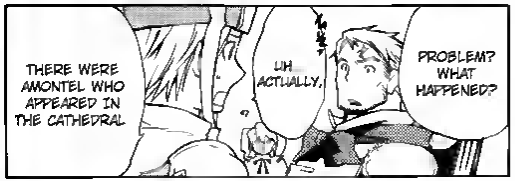

WAIT! I MUST SAVE HIS HIGHNESS...
THE CROWN PRINCE HAS ALREADY TAKEN SHELTER WE SHALL NOW TAKE YOU TO THE DOCTOR, MR. REPRESEN -TATIVE...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT'S IMPOSSIBLE IN YOUR CURRENT CONDITION!
AT THIS RANGE, I COULD AIM FOR THOSE MONSTERS...
BUT THEY'VE STILL GOT THAT TROUBLEMAKER AS A HOSTAGE... PERHAPS JUST A SCRATCH ON HIM WOULDN'T HURT...

I KNOW YOU CANNOT FORGIVE THOSE EVIL CREATURES, BUT YOU MUST LOWER YOUR WEAPONS!!
HERE... INSIDE THE CATHEDRAL?!
YOU WOULD DARE FIRE A CROSSBOW TO RETRIVE THE DESCENDANT OF THE HERO KING?
YOU FOOLS !!!
!!!
WE APOLOGIZE ...!!!
...WE...
HUH?
WHO WAS THAT?
YOUR HIGH..
YOUR HIGHNESS!
...
HAVEN'T SEEN HIM BEFORE... MAYBE HE'S THE LEADER OF A DIFFERENT PLATOON?
SNEAK
Weird he looked a bit too flashy

THIS IS JUST GREAT--
HEY--
SEAMROG--
WHY WON'T THEY LET US OUT OF THIS ROOM EVEN IF I'M THE PRINCESS?
THIS IS SOOO UNCOMFORT -ABLE...
We're stuck.
I'M WORRIED ABOUT THAT MEANIE BAR. UM, I MEAN "MAID."
HUH?
PRINCESS. I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE HIM.
YUP, I DON'T LIKE HIM.
I really don't
BUT,
I DON'T WANT HIM TO GET KILLED.

IT COULDN'T BE--


UM...
"PRINC-ESS"!
WHAT IS IT?
THERE'S A BIT OF A PROBLEM.
BEFORE YOU MEET WITH THE PALACE GUARDS, COULD YOU MOVE SOMEWHERE ELSE FOR THE MOMENT?


PROBLEM? WHAT HAPPENED?
UH... ACTUALLY,
THERE WERE AMONTEL WHO APPEARED IN THE CATHEDRAL

THEY'RE PROBABLY THE SAME AMONTEL WHO APPEARED EARLIER TODAY... BUT IT'S STILL UNCLEAR HOW THEY INFILTRATED THE PALACE.
"HOW THEY INFILTRATED THE PALACE"?
FOR NOW, THE PRINCESS MUST GO TO THE NEAREST CITADEL AT THE BASEMENT OF THE CASTLE RAMPARTS...

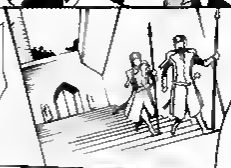
I'VE FINISHED THE STITCHES.
I'LL GO AND GET SOME MORE PAINKILLERS. COULD YOU PUT SOME PRESSURE ON IT WHILE I'M GONE?
ROGER!
LET ME OUT OF HERE!
I HAVE TO GO...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THAT'S A SERIOUS WOUND YOU GOT THERE, YOU KNOW?
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT! I HAVE TO RESCUE PRINCE BELCA!
HE WAS TAKEN BY THE AMONTEL ...
YUP, YUP. THAT IS SERIOUS ...
BUT IT'S BELCA.
HYGO
SO I DON'T THINK HE'LL BE KILLED THAT EASILY!

SO, ABOUT THE PLAN..!
I'M ABOUT TO CAUSE A COMMOTION...
..HUH?
SIR ECO!! YOU ARE SAFE! UH... THOSE CLOTHES..!
HEHE, DOES IT SUIT ME?
I BORROWED IT FROM THE GUARDS...
WHILE I DO THAT,
I'D LIKE YOU TO DO ME A FAVOR--

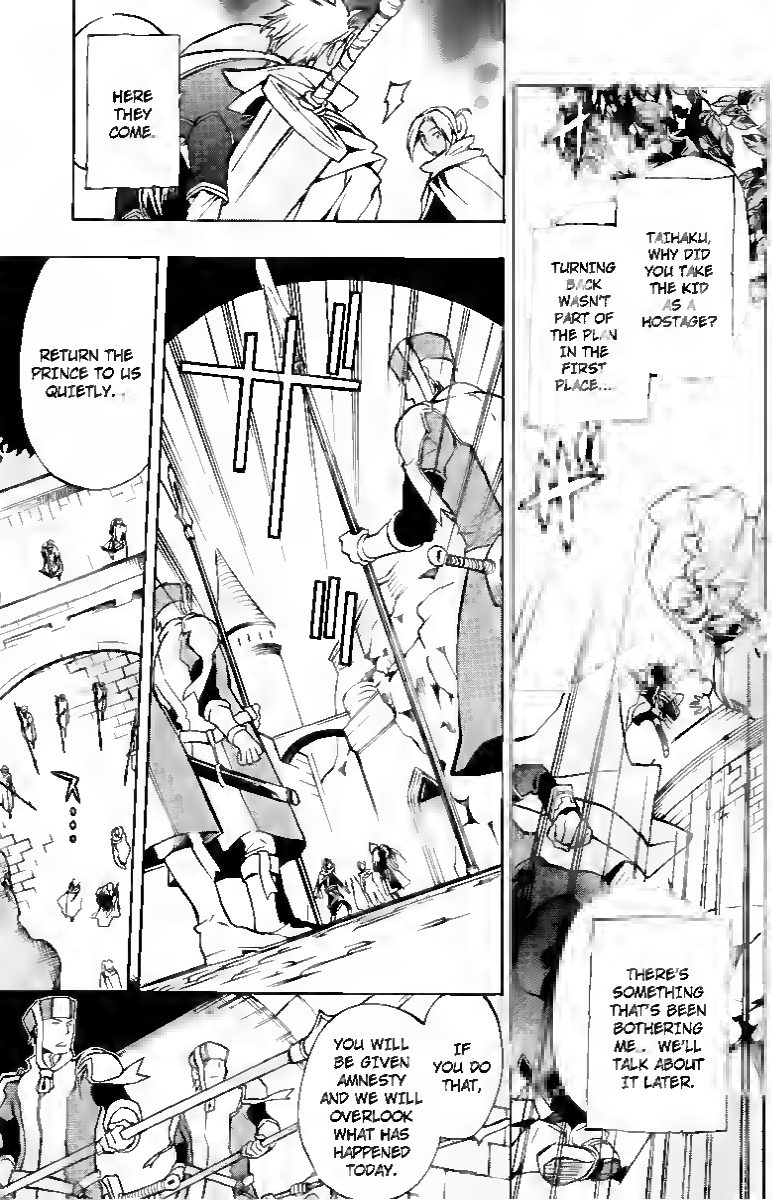
THE AMONTEL WERE ABLE TO CLIMB THE ROOF OF THE CATHEDRAL AND WERE STRONG ENOUGH TO BREAK THROUGH THE SKYLIGHT THAT EASILY.
DON'T THINK OF THEM AS NORMAL HUMANS.

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY ALREADY CLOSED ALL THE GATES.
HEAVILY-EQUIPPED GUARDS HAVE ALSO BEEN DEPLOYED IN EACH LEVEL.

NO...
WITH THIS, THE AMONTEL WILL BE TRAPPED IN THE SECOND LEVEL, MASTER.


TO THE OTHER SIDE! WORK WITH THE THIRD PLATOON AND TAKE THE REAR.
THE TIDES WILL TURN SOON!!!

LEAVE IT TO THE PALACE GUARDS TO TAKE CARE OF MATTERS HERE. LET'S GO, LOTT, LUTZ.
YES, MASTER.


HERE THEY COME.
RETURN THE PRINCE TO US QUIETLY. .
...
YOU WILL BE GIVEN AMNESTY AND WE WILL OVERLOOK WHAT HAS HAPPENED TODAY.
IF YOU DO THAT,
TAIHAKU, WHY DID YOU TAKE THE KID AS A HOSTAGE?
TURNING BACK WASN'T PART OF THE PLAN IN THE FIRST PLACE...
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S BEEN BOTHERING ME. WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT LATER.

SO THEY THINK THEY CAN STOP US WITH THIS?
NO WAIT... LOOK CAREFULLY
THERE ARE MORE OF THEM BEHIND US.
AND, THERE ARE ARCHERS STANDING BY THE WINDOWS OF THE BUILDING ON THE LEFT..
THEY PROBABLY LURED US HERE ON PURPOSE.
PREPARE ARLON'S POISON SMOKE FROM THE DRUG STORAGE.
WE'LL BOMBARD THEM..
WHEN THE DIRECTION OF THE WIND CHANGES
.....?
WHAT WAS THAT?

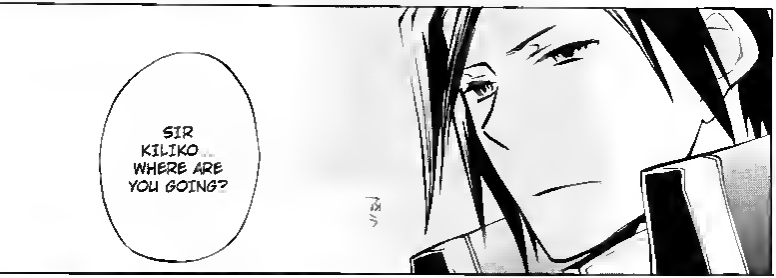
WHAT'S GOING ON...? A LANDSLIDE ?!

WHA.
WHAT'S THAT SOUND ...?
IT'S COMING FROM THE LOWER LEVEL.

!!!

WHA--
IT CAN'T BE...
THE "WATCHDOGS"--?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON BUT,
NOW'S OUR CHANCE TO GET OUT OF HERE!!!
WHAT ARE THOSE...
UWAAH!

DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY... AFTER THEM!!! ARCHERS, STOP THEM...!
DON'T ...


SIR KILIKO... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

YOU OVER THERE! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING? REGULAR GUARDS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER THE DRUG STORAGE--
.....
HEY-- WHY YOU...
STOP RIGHT THERE!!!

I'M GOING BACK TO SEE PRINCE ORCELITO FOR NOW.
I HAVE TO REPORT TO HIM ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED TO PRINCE BELCA..
ALRIGHT SIR.

OWWW!
LET GO OF ME! THAT HURTS!
JUST KIDDING.
AHAHA.
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, NATHANAEL.
OH...
WHY...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THAT'S RIGHT... YOU'RE CALLED KILIKO NOW.

I Eat Manga

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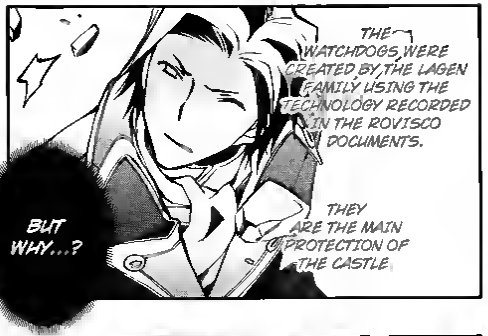
Op.22

JUST AS I THOUGHT
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME, NATHANAEL.
OH.
THAT'S RIGHT.. YOU'RE CALLED KILIKO NOW
FRANCESCO.
SHALL I GIVE IT TO YOU?
SUCH A TRIVIAL THING.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

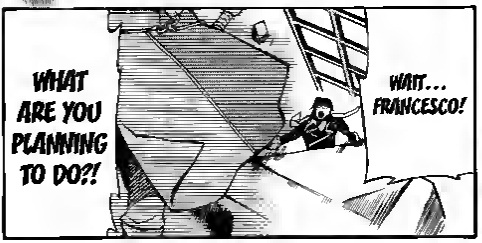
YOU NO LONGER HAVE A PLACE TO RETURN TO ...
I WILL BE THE SUCCESSOR OF THE HOUSE OF LAGEN!
HUH---?
HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU? I DON'T HAVE ANY BUSINESS WITH THAT HOUSE ANYMORE
SIR FRANCESCO?
THE ONE.. WHO RAN AWAY FROM HOME IN THE PAST ...?
A HOUSE BOUND BY THE ARCHIVES OF ROVISCO,
...LIKE A GOLEM THAT COULDN'T MOVE AT ALL.

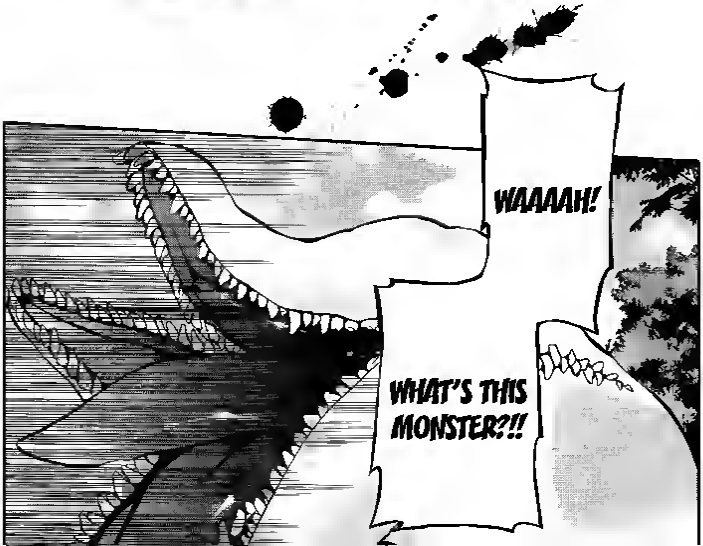
SEIZE HIM!!
HE'S NO PALACE GUARD... HE'S THE MASTERMIND OF THE INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED THE OTHER DAY!
YE...
YES SIR!!
SFX: SWISH
WAAAH!!!
ECO-TAN ISN'T GOOD AT FIGHTS~~~
SFX: CRASH
CREAK...
--HM?
ANYTIME NOW..
CREAK...

SFX. RUMPLE RUMPLE
WHA...
!!!
WHAT IS THIS?!
EARL KIRIKO!
IT'S DANGEROUS, PLEASE STAY BACK!
THE WATCHDOGS OF THE WATER HAVE...!!
IMPOSSIBLE!...


THE WATCHDOGS, WERE CREATED BY THE LAGEN FAMILY USING THE TECHNOLOGY RECORDED IN THE ROVISCO DOCUMENTS.
THEY ARE THE MAIN PROTECTION OF THE CASTLE
BUT WHY...?

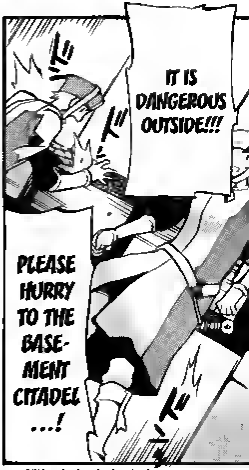
WHAM
BUH-BYE NATHANAEL.
THUD
LET'S MEET AGAIN SOME TIME. ♡
FM


WAIT... FRANCESCO!
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?!


WAAAAH!
WHAT'S THIS MONSTER?!!

IS THIS THE COMMOTION,
THAT SIR ECO WAS TALKING ABOUT?
BUT WE COULDN'T CONFIRM IT SINCE THE VICINITY HAS COLLAPSED INTO THE WATERWAYS!!
ACCORDING TO REPORTS... THEY SUDDENLY APPEARED FROM THE FIRST LEVEL SEWAGE ENTRANCE ...
SFX: HUSTLE, HUSTLE
WHY DID THIS HAPPEN ON THE DAY OF THE INVESTITURE'S CELEBRATION ..?
NOT JUST THE AMONTEL .. BUT THIS TOO!
SFX: BAM, BAM
EVERYONE... IT IS DANGEROUS!! PLEASE RETURN TO THE BASEMENT CITADEL!!
I'M GETTING OUT OF HERE! QUICKLY OPEN THIS DOOR!!!
RIGHT NOW, WE CANNOT OPEN THE GATES LEADING TO THE OTHER LEVELS!
ME TOO! HURRY AND PREPARE THE COACH, I'M LEAVING...
SFX: RUSTLE...

SFX. SLAM



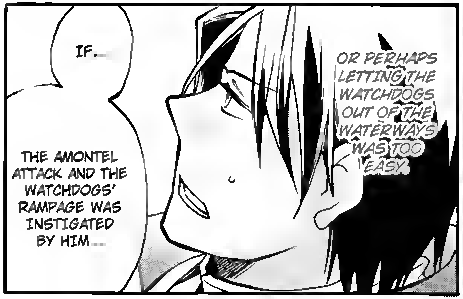
SFX. BAM, BAM, BAM

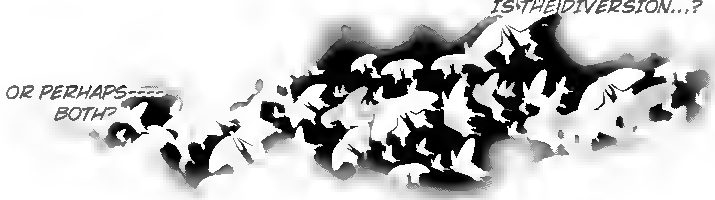
THEN THAT CHOICE!..
...HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED!

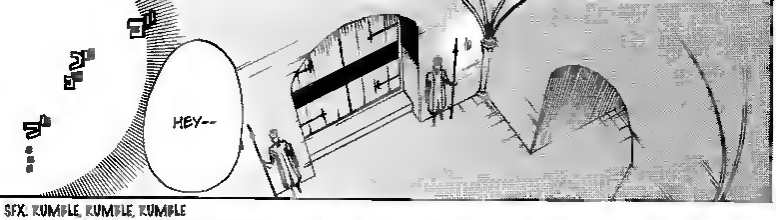
THE WATCHDOGS?
DO NOT BE AFRAID! TELL THE GUARDS THAT THE WATCHDOGS ARE VULNERABLE TO LIGHT. THEY WILL SOON WEAKEN.
UNLOCK THE STOREROOM. SMEAR THE BLADES WITH CANTHARIS AND ARZENICA
YES, SIR!

FRANCESCO IS SAID TO HAVE WORKED WITH THE RESEARCHERS OF THE LIGEN FAMILY SINCE CHILDHOOD.
SO THERE'S NO REASON WHY HE WOULDN'T KNOW THIS.

THE WATCHDOGS LIVE IN THE WATERWAYS WHERE LIGHT DOES NOT REACH. IF THEY ARE EXPOSED TO THE SUN, THEY WILL GO ON A RAMPAGE BECAUSE OF THE BRIGHTNESS.


IF...
THE AMONTEL ATTACK AND THE WATCHDOGS' RAMPAGE WAS INSTIGATED BY HIM...
OR PERHAPS LETTING THE WATCHDOGS OUT OF THE WATERWAYS WAS TOO EASY.


WHICH IS THE GOAL... AND WHICH IS THE DIVERSION...?
OR PERHAPS---- BOTH?



SFX. RUMBLE, RUMBLE, RUMBLE

SFX. RUMBLE.. RUMBLE

SFX. CRUNCH

A LADY REFRAINS FROM DOING THINGS THAT ARE DANGEROUS.
I UNDERSTAND HOW YOU FEEL, BUT,
WELL... WHAT DO I DO NOW? WITH ALL THIS COMMOTION, THIS IS MY CHANCE TO ESCAPE, BUT...

I'M STILL..
..TAKING A BREAK FROM BEING A LADY
BECAUSE YOU KNOW WHAT..
IT'S OKAY,
lean
SFX. WHISPER
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN..
?
Taking a break?
..OKAY, ROGER THAT..
SFX. ORIN
SFX. BAM
THE PRINCESS SAYS SHE HAS A STOMACHACHE!! HURRY! WE HAVE TO TAKE HER TO THE DOCTOR!!!
HEY, YOU!!
GUARD!!

WHERE... AM I? IT'S SO DARK.
...WH...T THE...?
I CAN HEAR SOMEONE TALKING.
HOKULEA LANGUAGE?
OH— RIGHT.
THE FOX'S CAVE THEY'RE HIBERNA-

THIS ISN'T THE FOX'S CAVE!
NO,
LET ME GO...
YOU TERRORIST ASSASSINS !!!
SFX. SPLASH

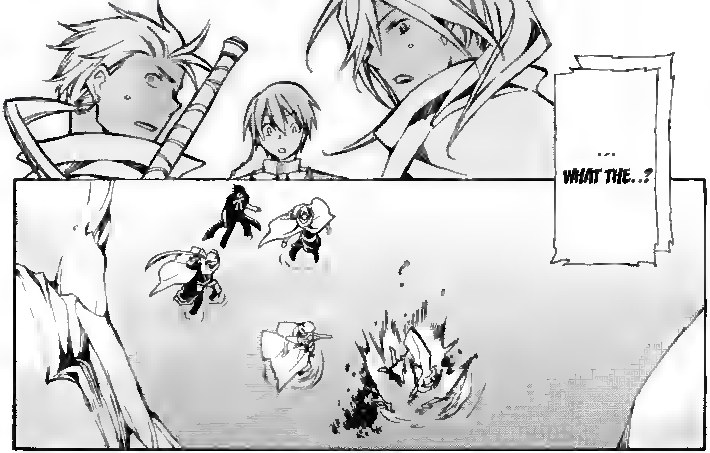
IS THIS THE CASTLE'S WATERWAYS? THEY SAY THAT MONSTERS LIVE HERE
I SEE... SO THIS IS HOW THEY INFILTRATED THE CASTLE.
It's cold.
Fu'
WHAT THE ...?
WATER?
YOU'RE AWAKE?
...PERFECT. YOU'LL DIE SOON.
I'M GONNA THROW THIS KID'S HEAD INTO THE CASTLE.
TAIHAKU, IT'S FINE, RIGHT?
SAKU...
I TOLD YOU, WE'LL ASK HIS NAME FIRST.

IT'S TO LET THEM KNOW THAT THE HOKULEA ARE NOT INSECTS THAT THEY CAN JUST HUNT DOWN ON THEIR WHIMS...
WHAT THE HELL DID WE COME HERE FOR?!
HIS NAME ...?
TO PUNISH THEM FOR TAINTING THE BLOOD OF THE KANNAGI!
AND...

T/N: KANNAGI - A MAIDEN CONSECRATED TO A DEITY. A SHAMAN, PRIESTESS OR ORACLE.

AT THIS RATE... IF THE VILLAGE IS GOING TO PERISH, THEN WE SHOULD AT LEAST FIGHT BACK.
DIDN'T WE SWEAR TO TEACH THE STONE CAPITAL THE PAIN OF LOSING SOMEONE THEY NEED TO PROTECT!?
HE'S RIGHT, TAIHAKU ...
THE DAY TSUKISHIRO RETURNED, WE SWORE TO TAKE REVENGE ON THEM, DIDN'T WE?
THAT'S RIGHT... BECAUSE OF THEM... THE BLOODLINE OF THE KANNAGI OF THE VILLAGE HAS DIED OUT.
.....
FX: SOAKED

SFX. SPLASH
HEY,
I WANT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING... IS THERE ANYONE WITH YOU WHO CAN UNDERSTAND ME?
...?
SPLAT
...
TAIHAKU.. I DON'T..
...UNDER-STAND WHAT HE'S SAYING---
SFX. SWOOSH
AH...!


...
WHAT THE..?

THERE'S SOMETHING IN HERE... AND IT'S NOT THAT GIANT CREATURE. IT'S SOMETHING MUCH FASTER...
RUN TOWARDS THE END OF THE PASSAGE!
SWISH

NO WAY...
IS HE DEAD ...? BUT HOW --?

WAIT A MINUTE
WHAT ABOUT GYOKUTO?

TCH...
YOU TOO, COME WITH US!
...WHA
SPLA--
SPLASH
PLUNK
HE'S GONE NOW. QUICKLY, GO!!!
CRASH

SFX: GRAB

.....!

YOUR HIGHNESS... PLEASE CLOSE YOUR EYES FOR A WHILE.
WE SHALL EXTERMINATE THE MONSTERS.
THOSE CLOTHES... THAT NIGHT IN SANA.
THEY'RE THE ONES WHO CHASED AFTER US?
I SEE... SO THAT WAS HIM.
THE ONE WE SAW AT THE CATHEDRAL... HE'S ONE OF KILIKO LAGEN'S MEN.
...ARE ORCELITO
AND LINNA ALRIGHT?

.....?
DIDN'T THEY.. COME TO SAVE THIS NOBLE...?
YES...
BOTH OF THEM ARE SAFE
PRINCE ORCELITO WAS NOT HURT... AND SIR LINNA'S WOUND IS NOT SERIOUS.
..I SEE.
SFX: SIHH..
UNFORTUNATELY,
ONLY PEOPLE CAN BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO LAW.
VERY WELL THEN--- TAKE THEM AS PRISONERS.. LET THEM BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO THE LAW.
STEP
THERE'S NO NEED TO KILL THEM.
YOU'RE PRETTY STRONG.. IT SHOULDN'T BE MUCH OF A PROBLEM FOR YOU.
SQUISH

...BUT THE HOKULEA...
...ARE PEOPLE!
HOKULEA ...?
HOW DOES HE KNOW THAT NAME ..?
WE HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT MATTER.
...ROT
SIR
SFX. SPLASH
SFX. RUMBLE
SECURE THE PRINCE

!!!
THE WATCHDOGS...! WHY DID THEY HAVE TO SHOW UP NOW!?
...WAIT...!
WHA... WHAT IS THIS?
COME, NOBLE... OR ELSE YOU'LL BE DEVOURED!!
I SAID WAIT, YOU BASTARDS!!!

I GUESS THERE ISN'T USUALLY SOMEONE LIKE SHINGETSU AND TENROU WHO I COULD TALK TO...
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW!?
IT LOOKS LIKE...
WE LOST THEM...
TURN
PLUS, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE SAYING...
DAMMIT
IT'S TOO DARK. I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING...
HE KNOWS THE SIBLINGS
AND... HE CALLED US HOKULEA.
SHIN-GETSU...
.AND TENROU?

BELCA...? YOU MEAN THAT PRINCE THAT THE NEIGHBORING VILLAGE WAS TALKING ABOUT?
SURELY, HE MUST HAVE BEEN JUST AN IMPOSTOR PRETENDING TO BE THE PRINCE
BUT, IF THERE'S A SLIGHTEST CHANCE THAT HE IS THE PRINCE... THEY ALSO MIGHT BE TRYING TO KILL HIM, LIKE HECTOR
HUH?
'SHINGETSU' 'TENROU' AND THEN 'BELCA'
ARE YOU... BELCA?
BELCA... RISKED HIS LIFE TO SAVE OUR COMRADES--- TO SAVE THE KANNAGI
PERHAPS HE'S THE ACQUAINTANCE OF SHINGETSU AND THE OTHERS?
IF WE HURT HIM, WE WOULD LOSE OUR PRIDE AS HOKULEA
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
THEN PERHAPS,

I...
...THERE MIGHT STILL BE A WAY TO SAVE THEM SOMEHOW
I AM...
BELCA.
SFX: SPLASH
WE APOLOGIZE
WE DIDN'T KNOW...
...THAT WE WERE ABOUT TO HURT AN ALLY OF OURS...

I FORGOT, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WE'RE SAYING.
... AND, AH!
OR ANYONE IN THEIR VILLAGE WHO CAN READ THIS.
BELCA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
YOUR FINGER IS BLEEDING. DID YOU CUT YOURSELF?
SPLASH
WITH THIS, I CAN WARN THEM ABOUT ORCELITO'S PLAN.
I WANT YOU TO GIVE THIS TO SHINGETSU OR TENROU.
A LETTER ...
I'm working on a better balloon though!
YOU'RE KIDDING? I DON'T SENSE THEM.
WHAT?
HERE THEY COME.

SFX: WHOOSH
SFX: THWACK
TCH...
WHO'S THE MONSTER NOW...!?

SAISEI, RUN THROUGH THERE! TAIHAKU AND I WILL HOLD THEM OFF.
YOU'LL REACH THE EXIT SOON.
...WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOUR HIGHNESS?
COMMUNICATING WITH THE AMONTEL...
PLEASE DO NOT GIVE US ANY REASON TO SUSPECT YOU.
SFX: GRIP

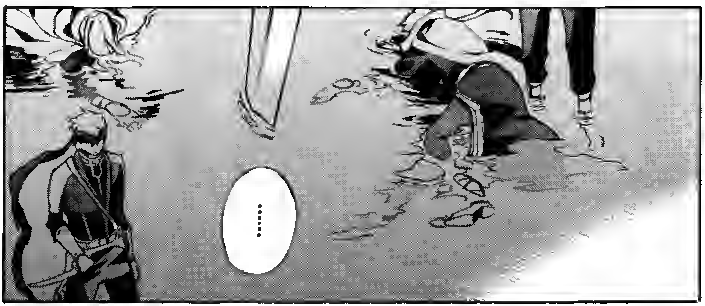
THE CLOTH THAT YOU HAD EARLIER... DO YOU WANT US TO GIVE IT TO THE SIBLINGS?
I'M NOT SURE I UNDERSTAND BUT...FINISH WHATEVER YOU WERE WRITING AND GIVE IT TO SAISEI. YOU CAN TRUST HIM WITH IT.
AH...!
YOU SHOULD GO TOO... BELCA.

...ALSO,
BECAUSE OF YOU, MY YOUNGER BROTHER WAS FINALLY ABLE TO RETURN TO THE VILLAGE.
THANKS A LOT!

SFX. SLASH
GO ON, RUN
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO ESCAPE ANYWAY
.....
SFX. CLANG
SFX. GRAB
HEY... COME ON!
YOU CAN'T SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOING, RIGHT?
SFX. SPLASH SPLASH
THE WATERWAYS' EXIT IS RIGHT AFTER THE TURN UP AHEAD...
SO HURRY AND FINISH WHAT YOU WERE WRITING THEN GIVE IT TO ME.
WHAT...?

THE WAY..
IS BLOCKED...

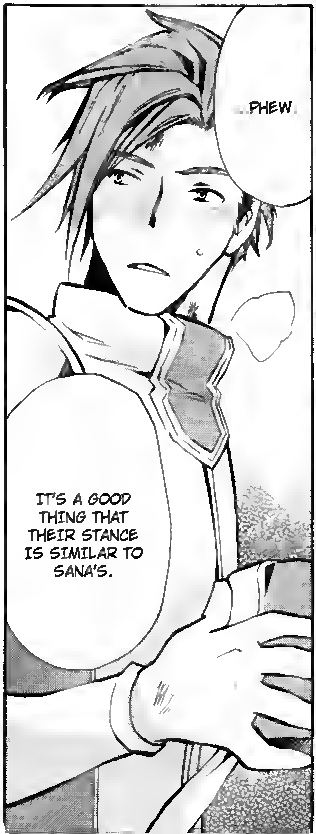
WHAT'S WRONG...?
I CAN'T SEE VERY WELL...


.....

SFX. FLAP FLAP...
WE HAVE JUST CONFIRMED THE SIGNAL FROM THE FIRST LEVEL.
IT APPEARS THAT THE BLADES SMEARED WITH THE CHEMICALS WORKED.
THEY ARE DRIVING THE WATCHDOGS AWAY!!
WE SHALL CONTINUE TO KEEP THE WATERGATES SHUT.
DO NOT OPEN THE WOODEN & LATTICE GATES UNLESS HIS EXCELLENCY GIVES PERMISSION!
YES, SIR!
SFX. KNOCK, KNOCK
GUARD... OPEN THIS DOOR!!
HM?
IT'S AN URGENT MESSAGE FROM SIR KILIKO.
I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TO YOU IMMEDIATELY
DID YOU JUST SAY "SIR KILIKO"? WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE!?

...AH.
SO ONLY HIS CLOSEST ATTENDANTS CALL HIM BY THAT NAME...?
TWIST
!?

SFX. GRAB


...PHEW.
IT'S A GOOD THING THAT THEIR STANCE IS SIMILAR TO SANA'S.

WHY YOU...!
HH!...

WHAT THE...
HE'S STRONG

SFX. GROAN
NOW,
I WILL BE ABLE TO SAVE HIS HIGHNESS.
PLEASE...
PLEASE BE SAFE...

I Eat Manga

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Op.23
I ONLY WANTED TO BRING YOU TO A PLACE,
WHERE YOU CAN BASK IN THE WARM SUNSHINE.
?!
I HAVE BEEN...
A HEAVY BURDEN TO YOU.
THE TRUTH IS,

SFX. SPLASH
YOUR HIGHNESS,
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY?
WE HAVE COME TO SAVE YOU.

SFX. FLICKER
A GATE...?!
IS IT LOCKED?!
I MUST GIVE THE LETTER...
TO SHINGETSU AND THE OTHERS NO MATTER WHAT!
SFX. SWISH
WHAT IS THAT?
I SEE SOMETHING WRITTEN ON IT... IS IT A TELEGRAM?
DON'T TELL ME... YOU DON'T HAVE AN ACQUAINTANCE...
DAMMIT... WHAT SHOULD I DO?
...AMONG THE AMONTEL, DO YOU?
CLANK
CLICK
CREAK
WHAT'S THAT SOUND...?
...HUH?

!!!

SFX: OPEN

GUH... MY EYES...
WHY ARE THE GATES OPENING?!
キョロ
IS IT ALRIGHT FOR ME TO GO?!
キョロ
O..
OKAY..
...
HUH?
I'LL TRY TO HOLD THEM OFF. TAKE THIS.. HURRY..
NOW'S OUR CHANCE
HEY... CAN YOU RUN?

I...
WON'T...
LET YOU!
YOU'RE FINISHED!
.....
SFX. FWOOSH..
DIE! ALL OF YOU MONSTE...
DON'T KILL HIM-- STO...
SFX. SLASH

SFX. CLANG

HOW DID YOU GET HERE ---?
"SIR LINNA,"
.....
WELL, THERE WERE VARIOUS TOOLS IN THE WATER-GATE'S CONTROL ROOM.

SFX: SPLASH
LINNA ...?!
YOU'RE ...
SAFE--!
...YOUR HIGHNESS!
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY...
YOU IDIOT!
THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE MY LINE!
...THE UNDERGROUND WATERWAYS?

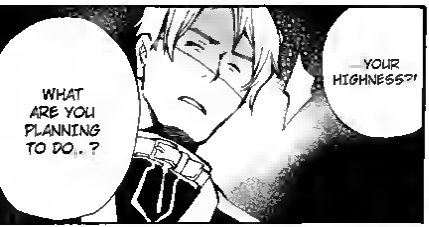
YUP.
THE GUYS WHO TOOK BELCA WILL PROBABLY ESCAPE THROUGH THERE.
KILIKO LAGEN AND HIS MEN WOULD PROBABLY CLOSE THE WATERGATES AS SOON AS THEY REALIZE THAT POSSIBILITY
MEANWHILE, I'LL STEAL A HORSE AND PICK YOU UP AT THE WATERGATES . ORHALDI,
I WANT YOU TO SAVE BELCA WHILE LAGEN'S MEN ARE BUSY FIGHTING THE HOKULEA.
THAT'S WHY...
I NEED YOU TO SOMEHOW KEEP THE WATERGATES OPEN, THEN WE'LL SAVE BELCA!
. ARE WE GOING TO TAKE HIS HIGHNESS AWAY FROM THE PALACE?
YOU DON'T LIKE THE IDEA?

BECAUSE, YOU KNOW, BELCA AGREED TO DO WHATEVER THEY ASK HIM TO DO,
IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR SAFETY...
AND THOSE BOOKS TOO...
HOW ABOUT IF WE LET HIS HIGHNESS DECIDE IF HE WANTS TO LEAVE THE CASTLE OR STAY BEHIND?
WOULD THAT BE ALRIGHT?

SIR LINNA DZINTARS.
SFX. SPLASH

NOBLE SIR... I TRULY ADMIRE YOUR LOYALTY TO HIS HIGHNESS, PRINCE BELCA.
SFX. BOW
SFX. WHISPER
AS YOU CAN SEE.. THE PRINCE IS SAFE.
PLEASE PUT AWAY YOUR SWORD... AND IF YOU TWO WOULD KINDLY COME OVER HERE.
SIR ECO WILL BE ARRIVING ON THE ROAD WITH A HORSE.
IF YOU WISH, YOU COULD LEAVE THE ROYAL PREFECTURE ...
SFX. SPLASH
YOUR HIGHNESS,
EXCUSE ME, BUT... PLEASE COME A LITTLE CLOSER.
I SHALL STAY WITH YOU, WHEREVER YOU WISH TO---
LINNA,

PLEASE,
TAKE THIS KID AND GET OUT OF HERE.
AND..
GIVE THE MESSAGE TO THE HOKULEA--
.....
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS
AS YOU WISH.


—YOUR HIGHNESS?!
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO..?

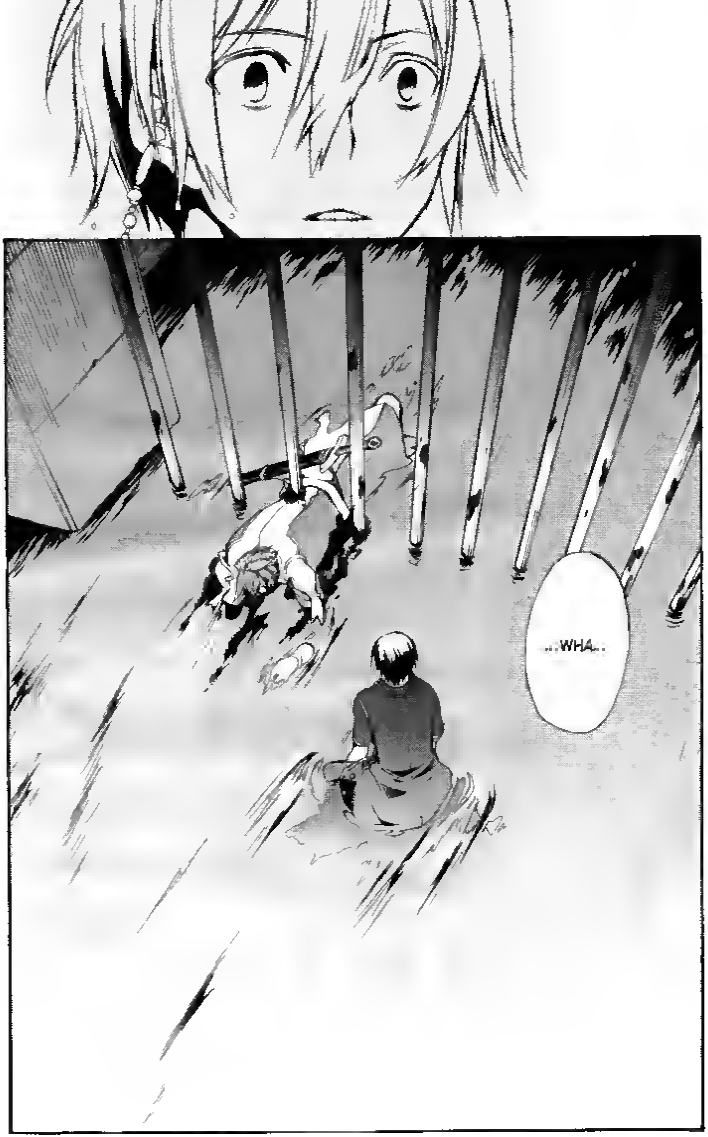
SFX: SPLASH
HEY,
KID, LEND ME YOUR KNIFE

SFX. SPLASH
YOU WILL LET THEM GO..
YOU IN THE BLACK UNIFORMS!
STEP BACK TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WATERGATE.
MASTER... IS THIS ALRIGHT?!
HE IS PRINCE ORCELITO'S BROTHER AFTER ALL...
Sigh
RUTZ WILL RETURN ANY MINUTE NOW
WE'LL LEAVE IT UP TO HIM

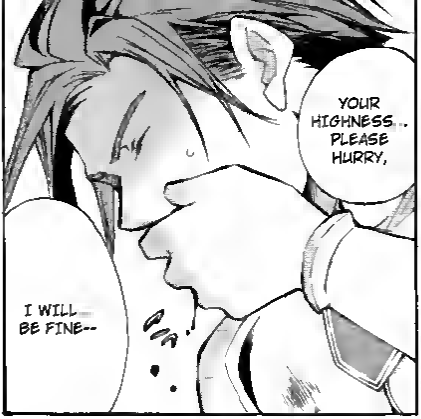
...GOOD
サク?..
WITH THIS--
SFX. SNAP
...HUH?
SFX. CRAAASH

SFX: SPLASH
SFX: SPLAASH
YOUR...
HIGHNESS!!!
SPLASH
...TCH.
AAAH
...

...WELL, I'VE ALREADY LOWERED THE LATTICE.
I'LL GO AND CHECK WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN THERE.
SOMEONE DID OPEN THE WATERGATES...
splash
.....
OUCH...
SFX. SPLASH
The water's just a bit cold.
...I'M ALL RIGHT.
YOUR HIGHNESS,
ARE YOU HURT?
SFX. BEND
THANKS, LINNA... YOU SAVED ME...


...WHA...

DAMMIT...
IT WON'T BUDGE...
--YOUR HIGHNESS.
SFX: WRENCH
WH...
WHAT IS THIS?!
...TCH.
LINNA...
I'M GONNA GET THIS THING OFF YOU, OKAY?
...YOUR HIGHNESS.
YOU CAN... MAKE IT, IF... YOU GO NOW..
SIR ECO WILL... BE HERE SOON...
I AM... VERY... SORRY,
IT TURNED... OUT THIS WAY...
...YOUR HIGHNESS... WOULD HAVE TO... GO TO THEM... IN PERSON.


YOUR HIGHNESS... PLEASE HURRY,
I WILL... BE FINE--

--YOUR HIGHNESS, PRINCE BELCA.
AT THE MOMENT, MY SUBORDINATES ARE ON THE WAY HERE.
WE WILL TREAT SIR LINNA'S WOUNDS IMMEDIATELY, SO PLEASE DO NOT MOVE FROM THERE.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?
I CAN'T LEAVE YOU BEHIND.

YOU ARE... THE KING'S SON.
...YOUR HIGHNESS,

YOU ARE...
THE ONLY PERSON WHO THINKS OF ME AS THE KING'S SON!!!
IF THE HOKU LEA ARE PEOPLE THEN, THEY ARE ALSO THE KING'S PEOPLE
YOU SHOULD PROTECT THEM.
... YOU'RE WRONG!!
I NEVER WAS A "PRINCE" ...
BUT,
BECAUSE YOU TREATED ME AS A PRINCE
THAT'S WHY I BEGAN TO THINK OF MYSELF AS A PRINCE
EVER SINCE THAT TIME IN THE CAVE

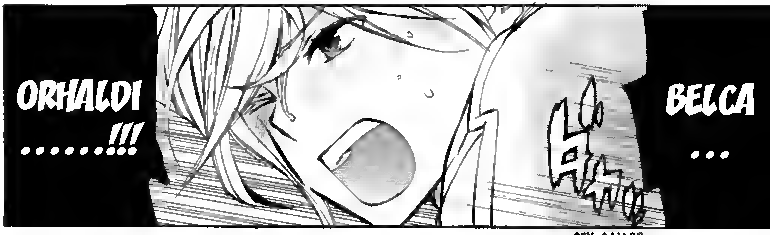
BECAUSE OF ONE,
AND ONLY ONE PERSON IN THIS COUNTRY... BECAUSE OF YOU.
WHO CARES FOR YOU... AND THINKS THAT YOU ARE IMPORTANT...
THAT IS... NOT TRUE...
I AM... NOT THE... ONLY ONE...
PLEASE...
SAVE... EVERYONE...

WHAT IS IT?
YOUR HIGH-NESS
THEIR COMPANION IS COMING...
I SEE.

DON'T SAY "LAST"...!
NO! I WON'T ALLOW... YOU... TO LEAVE ME BEHIND...
PLEASE...
FOR THE LAST TIME,
WOULD YOU PLEASE... ALLOW ME..
.....A KISS?

PLEASE...
LET ME... SWEAR,
MY... ETERNAL... PLEDGE
OF... LOYALTY--
.....
DO AS YOU WISH.

EVEN IF... I AM NOT... AT YOUR SIDE,
...I WILL... ALWAYS...
...BE WITH YOU... YOUR HIGHNESS.

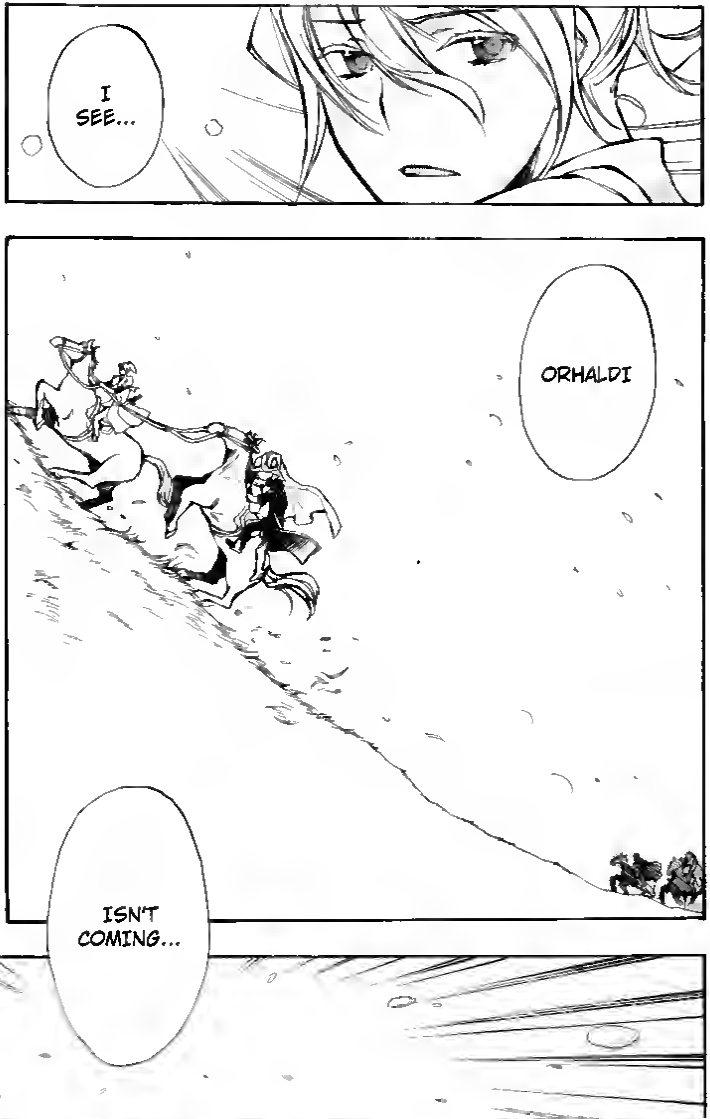


SFX. GALLOP

SFX. GALLOP GALLOP

SFX: SPLASH
YOUR HIGHNESS
PLEASE TURN BACK,
SFX: WHIFF
I REFUSE.
IF THAT'S THE CASE THEN,
PLEASE BE PREPARED TO GET A LITTLE HURT.
SFX: TRIVIA SLASH

--WHAT?
CAN'T GET IT OFF...
THIS ONE IS STILL ..
HAHA...
I FENDED OFF THE "MONSTER"
FEELS... GOOD
BELCA!!


I SEE...
ORHALDI
ISN'T COMING...

HM--
WE'RE REALLY IN A HURRY. IF YOU WANNA PICK A FIGHT, CAN WE DO IT SOME OTHER TIME?
We're gonna let you croak, ya know?
HORSE?
N... NO...!! TAKE OUR MONEY AND OUR HORSE... PLEASE... JUST SPARE US...!!!
My clothes got ripped!
DAMMIT...AND WE THOUGHT THAT THIS WAS OUR CHANCE, BECAUSE THEY SAID THAT HUNTING AMONTEL WILL BE PROHIBITED SOON.

LOOK OVER THERE.
--HUH?
...
HEY... TENROU

AND BELCA'S GONNA REACH HIS LIMIT
Ah— those winter coats look so warm
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? THE GUARDS. JUST AS I THOUGHT, WE CAN'T EASILY SHAKE THEM OFF
SFX. GALLOP GALLOP
ALRIGHT, WE'RE CATCHING UP WITH THEM
GO AROUND AND CUT THEM OFF!
SFX. FWOOSH

DAMN...
THEY ALSO HAVE COMPANIONS WAITING FOR THEM OUTSIDE ...
!!!
SFX. THWACK
---HEYA
!!
ARROWS ?
BUT WHO ? WHERE DID IT COME FROM ?

YOU GUYS...
WE THOUGHT WE RECOGNIZED SOME FAMILIAR FACES...
THAT WAS A CLOSE CALL BACK THERE!
.....
IT LOOKS LIKE SOME OF OUR KIN WERE QUITE BRASH AND CAUSED YOU TROUBLE.
I'M SORRY.

UM, LET'S...
...TALK ABOUT IT LATER.
I'LL BE ALRIGHT, BUT,
BELCA...
ARE YOU CONFIDENT WITH RIDING ON HORSE-BACK?
FROM HERE ON. IT'S GOING TO BE A BIT DANGEROUS BUT WE'LL REACH THE FOREST PATH ONCE WE GET PAST THE MOUNTAIN
...IT'S ALRIGHT.
BELCA!
BECAUSE LINNA PROMISED,
THAT HE'LL ALWAYS BE HERE.
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN? THAT BIG GUY ISN'T WITH YOU TODAY?

CAN BE A "PRINCE"...
THAT'S WHY...
--LET'S GO.
FROM NOW ON.
I...

SEAMROG--!
SEAMROG,
OH, IT'S FINE. I CAN GO BY MYSELF TO THE UPPER LEVELS!
ALSO, MY MAID IS PROBABLY BACK ALREADY.
OH NO! IT'S THE GUARDS!
They'll take me back to my room if they find me!
WHERE COULD HE BE..?
HOW EMBARRASSING FOR A KNIGHT TO BE LOST...
IT'S AN EMERGENCY! SOMEONE SEND A MESSENGER TO THE UPPER LEVELS!
WE CAN'T LET THIS GET OUT TO THE PUBLIC SEND SOMEONE WE CAN TRUST.
WHAT HAPPENED? WHAT IS IT THIS TIME?
AN URGENT NEWS CAME..
THE KUKLANT TRAIL.. IN THE SOUTHERN VICINITY...
SYMPTOMS OF THE GREAT PLAGUE HAVE BEEN REPORTED--!

+C sword and cornett 4 おわり

I Eat Manga

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